

GDP's 2.05pc lost to domestic violence, says CARE study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Domestic violence costs 2.05 percent loss of Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) worth around Tk 15 crore annually, revealed a study of CARE Bangladesh yesterday.

The amount is equal to the sum spent by the government in the health and nutrition sector, said the study conducted on 483 such women victims from January to June last year in 24 villages of Dinajpur, Tangail and Sunamganj.

CARE Bangladesh, supported by USAID, organised the study's dissemination at a seminar titled "Domestic Violence Against Women: How much it costs to the Bangladesh society" at Journalism Training and Research Initiative (Jatri) conference room in the

city.

The study's objective was to capture direct costs incurred by victims and perpetrator from an incidence of domestic violence, said speakers at the seminar.

They said the social impact of domestic violence is grave as it creates social instability, insecurity and gender disparity. But the economic impact is also immense, which remains unseen most of the time, they added.

It found that direct cost of violence is Tk 8,105 crore per annum including medical costs of the victim and perpetrators' family, filing cases and attending court.

Income loss of perpetrators and victims due to such violence costs Tk 5,978 crore per annum, including the time perpetrators evade police and serve jail.

The study also revealed that 81.2 percent married women experienced physical injury while 22.6 percent suffered permanent physical damage.

Julia Ahmed, team leader of Cost of Violence against Women (COVAW) project, presented the key findings while Project Director Tahera Yeasmin and Executive Director of Jatri Jamil Ahmed also spoke.

Though the government took various steps to eliminate violence against women and prepared a law last year, it should make the issue a national priority, said speakers.

A collaborative and concerted effort involving government, non-government and civil society actors is urgently required to prevent further violence against women and loss to the nation, speakers added.



Authorities concerned fell a number of trees, which died due to reasons unknown, at Chandrima Udyan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

International Nurses Day | 12 May 2011

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Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)



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Transfer of case against former BNP MP denied

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday did not entertain a petition of former BNP lawmaker Mujibur Rahman Monju (Kishoreganj-6) seeking transfer of his graft case to Kishoreganj Special Judge Court for its trial.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order saying that it had no jurisdiction to transfer of the case to another court for its disposal.

The court then fixed July 6 for next hearing of the case.

In the petition, Manju's lawyer Abdul Rakib said most of the witnesses included in the charge sheet are residing in Tangail and Kishoreganj districts. Moreover, the property and wealth for what the charges have been brought against his client are to be committed within Kishoreganj district. So, the trial of the case should be held by Kishoreganj Special Judge Court, said the lawyer.

Monju, now on bail, was present in the court during the yesterday's hearing while the prosecution submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing, even though the complainant appeared before it to give his statement.

On May 27, 2008, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Kazi Shamsul Islam filed the case with Ramna Police Station accusing him of acquiring wealth worth Tk 74.12 lakh beyond his known sources of income and concealing information about it.

The investigation officer of the case pressed charge against Monju on March 3, 2009. The court framed charge against the BNP leader on October 20 last year.

One dies in CNG cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A man was killed and another injured as a cylinder of a compressed natural gas (CNG)-run truck exploded while refueling at a gas station on Port Connecting Road in Chittagong city early Wednesday.

Security guard Md Shahin, 40, of the station Kolka Filling Station died on the spot when a flying portion of the cylinder hit him after the explosion around 12:30am, said Sub-Inspector Jahangir Al Aman of Pahartali Police Station.

Another heavy portion of the cylinder fell on a pedestrian, Shajahan, 30, half kilometre away. Shajahan was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

250 bullets recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday recovered 250 bullets packed in a box from a ditch at Agunatir village of Sonatola.

Officer-in-charge Md Zia Latiful Islam of Sonatola Police Station, said the box full of bullets became visible as the mud slides from the bank of the ditch due to rain.

Perhaps the bullets were hidden during War of Liberation in 1971.



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