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## **Need for planned family stressed to build poverty-free society**

GAIBANDHA: Speakers at a function in Gaibandha on Monday stressed the need for establishing planned family in every sections of the society to build a poverty and hunger free country.

"In this context, importance should be given on reducing rate of unwanted pregnancy and fertility through expediting the field level activities by the employees concerned of government organisations and NGOs at a greater extent", they said. They made the comments while addressing a discussion meeting on observing World Population Day-2011 jointly organised by Department of Family Planning and Friendship, a leading NGO of the country, at the auditorium of Zilla Parishad of the town here at about 11 am.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) M. Shahidul Islam attended the function and addressed it as the chief guest and Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Abdur Rashid Sarker, civil surgeon Dr. M. Shahidul Haque and president of district BMA Dr. Shahiduzzaman Harun were present as the special guests. With deputy director of DFP Dr. Ferdous Hossain Manju in the chair, the function was also addressed, among others, by medical officer of Mother and Child Welfare Center Dr. Asaduzzaman, district coordinator of Friendship Abdul Halim, project manager M. Ahmedur Rahman Khan and journalist Sircar M. Shahiduzzaman.

Terming the population as one of the main burning problems of the country, the speakers said all sorts of the nationwide development activities are being hampered seriously due to unabated population growth. They also emphasized on collective efforts of all government and non government organisations to control the population growth to help advance the nation towards development.

The DC in his speech urged the field level staff of the government and non-government organisations to increase the birth method users' rate to reduce the total fertility rate through providing permanent birth controlling method to all able couples particularly the rural and chars ones.

Later, seven certificates were given to the employees and family welfare centres of the department including Friendship for their good performance on family planning activities. Earlier, a big colorful rally led by DC was brought out and ended at the campus of Zilla Parishad after parading the main roads of the town. **BSS**