

Plant trees to protect environment: Tariqul

BATB launches free sapling distribution programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) launched its free sapling distribution programme 2006 at Krishibid Institution at Farmgate in the city yesterday.

Inaugurating the programme, Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam said there is no alternative to tree plantation to protect the environment from pollution.

"Nowadays, tree plantation has become a social movement with the participation of all, including farmers, teachers, students, and intellectuals," he said, adding that saplings worth Tk 5 crore were sold in the month-long tree fair in Dhaka.

Gulam Mainuddin, deputy managing director of BATB, said the multinational company had initiated the programme in 1980 as part of its corporate social responsibility programmes.

A total of 50 lakh saplings will be distributed this year as against 42 lakh last year, he said.

Jafur Islam Chowdhury, state minister for environment and forest, said the ban on polythene bags in the country has led to the improvement of the environment.

He called for using jute bags, plastic containers and earthen pots, instead of polybags, to preserve saplings at the nursery.

Later, both the minister and the state minister distributed saplings to some of the guests.

BATB will distribute two lakh saplings in Dhaka from the nursery at Krishibid Institution, Krishi Khamar Road, Farmgate.

Emil Moskofian, managing director of BATB, Ibrahim Khalil, director general of Department of Agriculture Extension, and Khandaker Rashedul Haque, director general of Department of Environment, and other BATB officials attended the function.

FM accuses diplomats

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He further said that as all diplomats here are accredited bilaterally, there is no scope for grouping or floating a platform. "If they have anything to say, the only window for them is the foreign ministry," he added.

The foreign minister said the government and the opposition parties should know the rules of business, so that the foreign diplomats cannot interfere in domestic affairs.

Morshed also said it has become a tendency that "we depend on others for protecting our interests, it is not correct, we will have to protect our interests ourselves."

Asked about Dhaka-New Delhi relations in the wake of India's recent ban on the export of rice, lentil and sugar, he said commercial relations and political relations are two different things as trade and business are now controlled more by the private sector and guided by WTO rules.

Morshed also said that Bangladesh may impose countervailing duty to discourage imports following India's imposing of additional tax on Bangladesh's four items - hilsha fish, saree, medicine and porcelain.

Asked about frequent border skirmishes, the foreign minister said it is not unusual along the porous border of 4,200 km between Bangladesh

and India, adding that these incidents do not reflect the relations with India.

SIX PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

In his written speech, Morshed Khan spelt out six priorities of the government's foreign policy focusing on economic diplomacy, combating terrorism, projecting Bangladesh's image as a moderate practising democracy and reinforcing neighbourhood diplomacy.

Besides, Bangladesh is striving to consolidate relations with its traditional friends and development partners of North America and Europe and looking for new opportunities in Russia, the CIS and Eastern Europe.

On bilateral plane, he said "it is Bangladesh's unwavering policy to maintain close relations with all its neighbours... as well as settlement of outstanding bilateral issues through meaningful dialogue and negotiations."

On regional front, Morshed said the government is committed to maintaining the positive momentum of Saarc, promote socio-economic mandate, create a broad-based climate of confidence and reduce tension in the region.

Bangladesh, Morshed said, is playing a strong role in the global arena through concrete initiatives in all socio-economic forums to promote the cause of developing coun-

tries as a whole and LDCs in particular.

"This calls for formulation of strategies to stop falling investment, to restructure and reduce debts as well as to promote trade and encourage technology transfer," he said.

The foreign minister also said that the political parties must not announce any programme that scares off the foreign investors, adding that the government and the opposition parties should work together to attract foreign investment to Bangladesh.

DCAB MEMBERS WILL GET SAARC VISA EXEMPTION

In the meeting, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan announced that DCAB members have been included in the Revised Consolidated List of Categories of Entitled Persons under Saarc Visa Exemption Scheme during the last Saarc summit.

This means that they will be able to travel to the Saarc countries without any visa.

The foreign minister also said that DCAB members would be given security pass so that they could cover the foreign dignitaries travelling Dhaka, adding that he has asked the ministry to set up a lounge for them at the foreign ministry.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Reaz Rahman and senior officials of the foreign ministry, DCAB President Anis Alamgir and General Secretary Masud Karim were present among others.

FAILURE TO TRACE MALE INTRUDER JU female students demand security

JU CORRESPONDENT

Female students of Jahanaara Imam hall at Jahangirnagar University staged a demonstration in the dormitory yesterday and on Monday night as authorities concerned failed to trace the male intruder, who injured a female student of the dormitory at midnight on June 7.

The Progotisheel Chhatra Jote (PSJ) also brought out a protest procession on the campus yesterday demanding security of female students in the dormitories and on the campus and punishment to the male-intruder.

The female students of Jahanaara

Imam hall staged demonstrations on Monday evening as the five-member probe-body formed to investigate the incident failed to make any report even after 20 days into the incident.

The demonstration continued inside the dormitory till 2:00am when a meeting of the probe-body was being held.

A female student of Physics department of the hall was injured on June 7 midnight when an unknown male intruder attacked her with a curved knife. She was returning to her room from TV room, which is situated in the middle of the dormitory.

Associate Prof Khaled Hossain, chief of the probe-body, declined to comment on the issue to the journalists.

Fresh manpower export

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The proposal from Azimat Consortium of Malaysia for constructing a new expressway between Dhaka and Chittagong with an estimated cost of \$900 million is now waiting for a nod from the cabinet. The proposal came last year and the Ministry of Communications scrutinised it before sending it to the cabinet for final approval, according to sources.

The sources said, Kuala Lumpur became annoyed over Dhaka's negative attitude regarding the investment proposals from Malaysian companies. Hardly any big investment proposal from Malaysia got approval during the current four-party alliance government, the sources pointed out.

Earlier, the manpower export issue suffered because of Bangladesh's competition with Malaysia after it finally opens the door. "We can only say that a good number of people will get jobs after opening of the market,"

(OIC). Both the countries lost the race but the competition gave rise to a cold relation between the two otherwise friendly countries.

On the other hand, the Malaysian high commissioner in Dhaka already expressed his frustration over the Bangladesh government's dilly dallying regarding the investment proposals. Speaking at a luncheon party he indicated the possibility of withdrawing those investment proposals due to delay in Bangladesh government's decisions.

The expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry sources however hope that the Malaysian job market will be opened for Bangladeshis by July this year. They see chances of recruitment of a large number of workers by Malaysia after it finally opens the door. "We can only say that a good number of people will get jobs after opening of the market,"

said a high official of the Bangladesh government declining to give any specific number of recruitment.

He said the actual number will depend on the demand in the market.

According to the agreed system of recruitment, private recruiting agents will send fresh workers and not charge more than \$1200 as recruitment and transportation fees. Currently around 1.13 lakh Bangladeshis are working in Malaysia with valid documents. Their job tenures have been extended up to 2007.

Kuala Lumpur stopped recruiting fresh manpower from Bangladesh in 1997 following an influx of a huge number of undocumented workers. After the ban, Kuala Lumpur also conducted raids and deported a rather large number of undocumented workers.

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1st BANGLADESH HOUSING FAIR Rome, Italy, 29-30 July 2006

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At IKEA Trading Area South Asia, we operate through four Trading Offices in Delhi and Chennai (India), Karachi (Pakistan), and Dhaka (Bangladesh). Our main business in the region includes Rugs & Carpets, Textiles, Plastics, Metal, Lighting and Nature Materials.

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Candidate Profile -

- A graduate, with a degree in engineering (preferably Textiles)
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- Sound knowledge of production conditions, including relevant material(s)
- Good knowledge of different cost structures and cost calculations
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- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English
- A constant desire to improve and look for better solutions

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The Quality Developer ensures that the IKEA suppliers in a given Material Area fulfill the different IKEA technical, quality and environmental requirements. He / she secures IKEA Quality demands on the suppliers and products.

Candidate Profile -

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- Able to work with and understand suppliers' daily operational activities.
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- A field operator with the ability to organize set responsibilities and work unsupervised.
- Improvement driven, with a "hands on" practical approach to his/her work.
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- A problem solver

3. Business Support - New Materials

The Business Support efficiently manages the order handling and supply chain system and develops new logistics solutions together with the business team & suppliers. The Job demands a keen understanding at factory floor and commercial skills to ensure a high service level performance.

Candidate Profile -

- Analytical
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- Strong communication skills and a team player
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Ragib elected NSU Foundation chairman

Ragib Ali, a founder-life member of North South University (NSU) Foundation and a distinguished industrialist, has been unanimously elected chairman of the foundation, says a press release.

The election was held at the 14th annual general meeting of the foundation on Monday.

Ragib Ali is also the founder-chairman of University of Asia Pacific. He is also the chairman and managing director of Sylhet Tea Co. Ltd., founder-vice chairman of Southeast Bank and Bangladesh General Insurance Company, and a director of FBCCI.



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1. Network Engineer :

The deserving candidate: Must have B.Sc. in Computer Science/Engineering from any reputed recognized university with minimum CGPA of 3.00. Must have sound and strong knowledge in NOS like NT, Windows 2000, XP, Linux, Unix-ware, TCP/IP, IP protocol, CISCO router/ Firewall or any other kind of operating system. Minimum 6 years' practical experience in a reputed organization is required with capability to implement large network, configuring LAN/ WAN, implementing security policy of the bank (i.e. as per ICT guideline issued by BB). Candidates having MCSE, CCNA training will get extra advantage. Applicant must have excellent communication skill in English.

2. Hardware Engineer:

The deserving candidate: Must have B.Sc. in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering / MS in Mathematics/ MS in Physics/ MS in Statistics from any reputed recognized university with minimum CGPA of 3.00. Must have sound and strong knowledge about installation of operating system, Anti virus software, Regular up-gradation of anti-virus, XP, Windows 2003 server, Windows 2000 server, NT, Linux, Unix, LAN Cabling, HUB/ Switch. 3 years' practical experience in hardware trouble shooting in any reputed organization is required. Applicant must have excellent communication skill in English.

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The deserving candidate: Must have Masters preferably in Commerce Background from any reputed recognized university having no 3rd class. Must have sound and strong knowledge about all banking rules & practices. At least 5 years' practical experience in any schedule bank in the relevant field. Thorough knowledge in Credit & International Trade will be preferred. Applicant must have excellent communication skill in English & computer literacy. Academic qualification relaxable for really deserving candidate.

For the above positions, candidates should be articulated, innovative and self-motivated.

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