

High level of lead in city air 'Vehicular traffic single largest source of pollution'

Concentration of lead in the air of Dhaka city is one of the highest in the world, posing threat to the city-dwellers, especially children, to lead poisoning, reports BSS.

Scientists at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) found that the concentration of lead in Dhaka's air during the low-rain period of November to January was 463 nanogram (billionth of a gram) per cubic metre of air. Second in the list is Mexico City, with a concentration of 383 nanogram while Bombay comes third with a count of 360 nanogram.

The study was conducted by the scientists of the commission for a period of 17 months with the technical assistance of international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). BAEC sources said.

Lead has long been recognised as a neurotoxin and it has adverse effects on brain development of children. Scientific evidence shows lead retards the mental and physical development of children.

The main sources of human exposure to lead include leaded gasoline, industrial processes such as lead smelting and coal combustion, lead based paint and leaden pipes of lead based solder in water supply systems. Most countries have already banned the use of many leaden products and have taken measures to abate emissions.

Vehicular traffic, however, remains the single largest source of environmental lead pollution in most urban areas in developing countries includ-

ing Bangladesh, typically accounting for over 90 per cent of all lead emissions into atmosphere, the sources said.

Vehicular lead emissions also accumulate in the soil, and enter the food chain, contributing to exposure through ingestion for long periods of time, scientific studies revealed. High blood lead levels have been detected in urban areas where gasoline with high lead content is widely used, contributing to large public health costs.

Unlike many developing countries of the world, all vehicular fuels in Bangladesh are leaded.

Environmental activists in the country feel that public awareness about the impacts of vehicular lead emissions coupled with political will could help in phasing out leaded gasoline in Bangladesh.

Countries around the world are at various stages of tackling the problem of human exposure to traffic related lead emissions. Many countries have simultaneously reduced the lead content of gasoline and increased the market share of unleaded gasoline, the environmentalists said.

Utsav programmes

Today's Utsav — The India Festival '96 — programmes are: — Uddisi dance: Madhavi Mudgal. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

— Theatre: Habib Tanvir. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.



Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its national convention. — Star photo

What's on today

NFOWD Workshop: National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled will hold a day-long workshop to consider and approve a draft legislation to ensure equal rights for people with disabilities in Bangladesh. Chief guest: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman. Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 9 am.

Dialogue on health policy: Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) has arranged a dialogue on formulating a national health policy. Venue: VHSS office, 273 Baitul Aman Housing Society, Rd: 1, Adabar, Shyamoli. Time: 10 am - 2 pm.

Theatre festival: Tahara Takhan' will be staged on the second day of the festival organised by Theatre drama group to mark the silver jubilee of independence. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

NSU job fair: A two-day 'job fair,' organised by the Department of Career services of North South University (NSU) will begin. Chief guest: State Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan. Venue: NSU premises, Banani. Time: 9 am-5 pm.

UNAB symposium: United Nations Associations of Bangladesh will hold a symposium in observance of Palestine Solidarity Day. Chief Guest: Justice Mustafa Kamal. Keynote speaker: Palestine Ambassador Mohammad S Zarab. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Car N car, 126/1 Elephant Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Hanif visits Ward No 56

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif yesterday visited different areas of Ward No 56 of Dhaka City Corporation to see the corporation's ongoing activities, reports BSS.

During his visit to Railway Colony slum, Babupura slum, Medical College area, Segunbagicha, Bjoyanagar, North South Road and Topkhana Road under the ward, the Mayor exchanged views with the local people on the activities of the DCC.

Local ward commissioner Chowdhury Alam was also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-1, Dhaka
Memo No-15-7/3108 Date: 17/11/96
3/8/1403BS

Tender Invitation Notice

No-52/96-97

- Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 are invited on percentage and item rate basis from Public Works Directorates special first class and those who have 1st and 2nd class contractor's licence for E/M work and value added tax registration certificate for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka upto 12:00 Noon of 8/12/96 during office hours and will be opened in presence of the tenderers (if any present) at 12: 30 PM on the same day. No tender will be sold on the tender opening day. Last date of purchasing tender is 7/12/96.
- Name of work : Work of lighting arrangement at southern boundary wall site and at the northern and eastern roadside and car parking areas of the Office of the Prime Minister at Tejaoga.
- Time for completion : 3 (three) months.
- Earnest money at the rate 2%(two per cent) of estimated & quoted cost should be submitted with the tender through Bank Draft /PO/CD from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-1, Dhaka.
- Tender form, schedule of items, specification, terms & conditions etc. can be seen and bought on usual cash payment (non-refundable) up to the last date of purchasing tender at the offices of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Public Works, Eden Building Division, Dhaka. Tenders can be bought by the contractors himself or his own representative (representative bearing letter attested by the contractor) on production of registration book with necessary papers.

Kazi Abdul Malek

Executive Engineer

DFP-26668-21/11
G-1667

Public Works E/M Division-1, Dhaka
Phone -9569820

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

An international NGO needs to immediately fill the following position for rural-based Agriculture Programme.

Position : Soybean Nutritionist

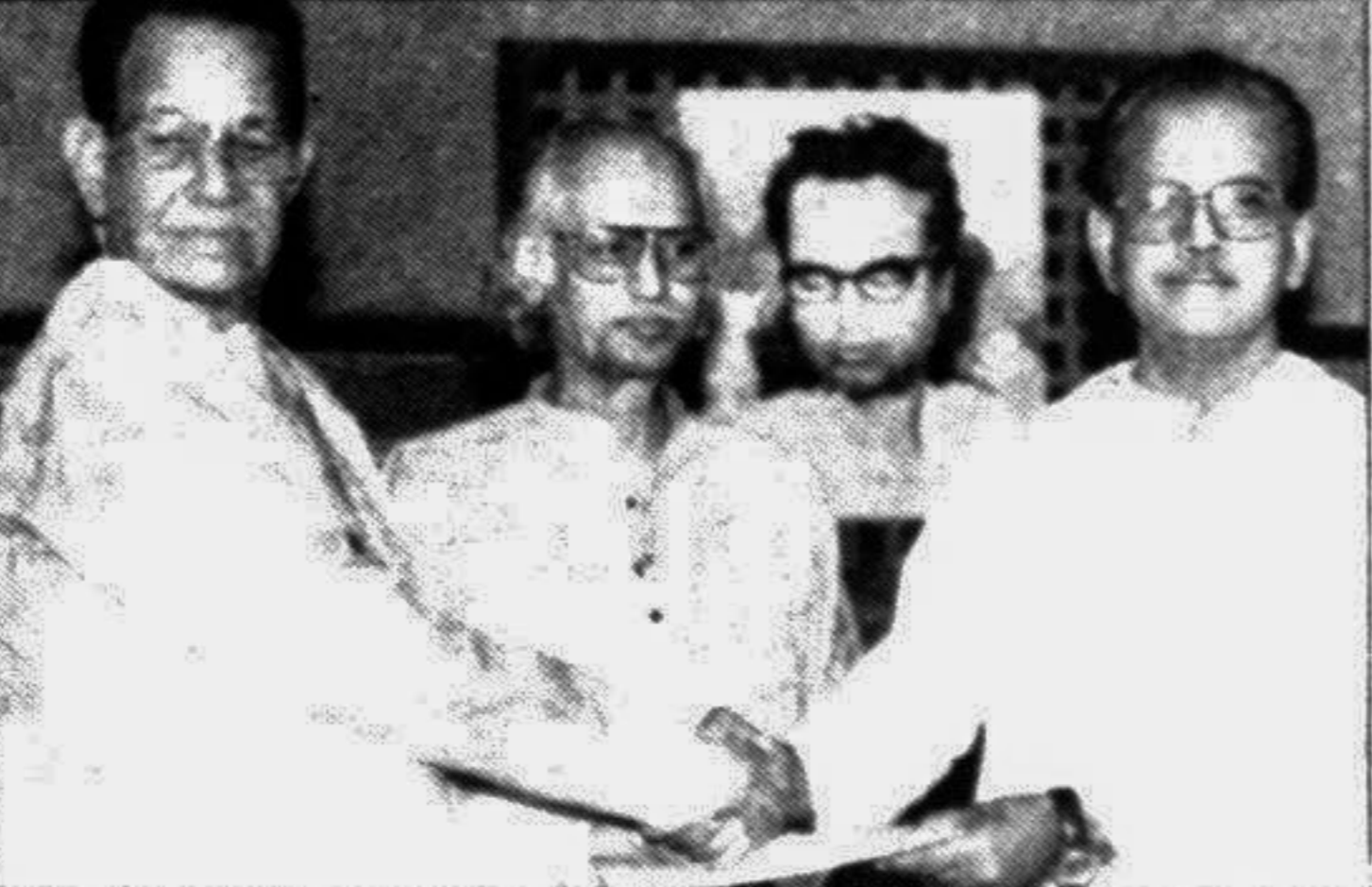
Qualifications : Female candidate with bachelor/master degree in Home Economics, Nutrition or related fields. The position requires traveling throughout Bangladesh; and providing soybean nutrition and utilization training's to upper grade school and intermediate level college students. Experience with soybeans is not necessary required.

Salary: Taka. 6,039

Please apply with CV and a photograph within 15 days of publishing this advertisement.

S.B. Program Leader

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Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) A K Khandaker presenting Munir Chowdhury Padak to Chittaranjan Saha at a inaugural function of 'Theatre festival' at the Public Library auditorium in the city yesterday. Prof Kabir Chowdhury was also present. — Star photo

Fresh enquiry into Dr Milon's killing urged

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday, demanded fresh enquiry into the killing of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, a martyr of the 1990 mass upsurge, reports BSS.

They also demanded trial of all political killings including assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders and others who embraced martyrdom for the cause of democracy.

'Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsad' organised the meeting at Dhaka University's TSC crossing where Milon was gunned down during the mass movement against the autocratic Ershad regime.

Speaking on the occasion, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said justice was often denied in the country due to political influence and lack of independence of the judiciary.

'As a soldier of the street, I demand trial of the killing of Dr Milon... the killers must be tried,' Yusuf said.

About the bails granted to former President Ershad recently by the court, the minister said there should not be any public comment on the decisions of the court.

Eminent lawyer and Gano Forum president, Dr Kamal Hossain, mother of Dr Milon, Selina Akhter, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Left Democratic Front leaders Hasanul Haque Inu, Rashed Khan Menon, journalist Abed Khan, cultural personality Asaduzzaman Nur and student leaders Ishaque Ali Khan Panna, ABM Mosharrif Hossain and Nurul Islam, among others, also addressed the meeting, chaired by Sangsad president, Dr MA Majed.

Exhibition of Bangladesh books in London, NY

By Staff Correspondent

The University Press Limited is going to organise two major exhibitions of the best Bangladesh books published in the last 25 years, in London and New York, to mark the silver jubilee of the country's independence, says a press release.

As part of an international conference on 'Bangladesh at 25', the first exhibition will be held at the Southern Asian Institute of Columbia University Dec 5-7, the release said.

The second exhibition is scheduled to be held at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, Dec 13-15, as part of an international conference on 'Bangladesh 1971-1996: Past, Present and Future,' the release added.

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পরিচালক (৩০) ৯৬-৯৭

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