

Metropolitan

Seminar on poultry disease April 22

A seminar on 'Important poultry diseases' will be held on April 22 at 4 pm at a local hotel, reports UNB.
Bengal Overseas Limited organised the seminar for the benefit of poultry industry in the country.

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Dacoity in Mohammadpur

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits robbed gold ornaments and cash worth about Tk 1.57 lakh from a residence at Chan Mia Housing under Mohammadpur thana in the city early Saturday.

Police said a gang of four armed men entered into the house of Mominullah Khan on Bash Bari Road after breaking an iron grill of a window at about 4 am.

Brandishing arms to the inmates of the house robbers took the gold ornaments and cash and left the house after about twenty minutes.

Police arrested three persons identified as Yusuf, Rakib and Khalil in this connection and produced them before the CM-M's Court Saturday.

Earlier, a case was filed with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.

Govt firm to ensure rights of deprived children: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday (Sunday) said her government is determined to remove discrimination from the society by ensuring the rights of the deprived children, reports UNB.

"Prepare yourself with patriotism to build a prosperous country and bring happiness for the less fortunate children," she asked the boys and girls who won the BTV's Natun Kuri prizes for 1995.

Distributing the prizes at the Rampura BTV auditorium in the afternoon, the Prime Minister, who is very fond of children, specially remembered the poverty-stricken children having no address even.

"Our country is poor... there are thousands of children who cannot even eat properly, but they've a lot of potential to become something special and do a lot for the nation and the country," she said.

Hasina told the children who took part in the competition that they were lucky enough having a comparatively good position in the society.

"Sleeping talents are also lying among the poor children... we want to flourish their intellect," she said asking the children in good position not to for-



Sushmita Sen Priyanka receiving 'Natun Kuri' Competition '95 award from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function in the city yesterday. — Star photo

get their poor and distressed friends.

For this, the Prime Minister advised the children to prepare themselves as good citizens of the future by following the path of truth and honesty and being more attentive to their studies.

She also emphasised on ensuring enrollment of all children in schools and told her little friends that her government had taken steps to raise the enrollment up to 95 per cent by the year 2000.

"You're the future of Bangladesh... tomorrow's world. Under your leadership, Bangladesh will march ahead towards peace, progress and prosperity in the 21st century," she said. "It is our moral duty to prepare you correctly."

"For this, there are a lot of responsibilities for me and for you all — the guardians and teachers of the country," she said adding that the mothers specially have a greater role to build the future generation.

Sheikh Hasina also stressed the need for grooming the children with the thousand years' cultural heritage of the Bengali nation and the spirit of the Liberation War.

She told the audience that the allocations for the Education Ministry and the Women and Children Affairs Ministry were highest this fiscal year compared to any previous year.

She informed that the National Council for Children has been reconstituted to protect child rights and their development, and pragmatic steps have

been taken to stop drop outs from the schools.

She told the Natun Kuri competitors that 25 years back, Bangabandhu, in his bid to flourish the latent talents of the children, had asked to organise national children's competition. This was realised through the Natun Kuri competition in 1974.

Some 30,000 children in two age groups (6-9 and 9-12) took part in the National Television Child Artist Awards, 'Natun Kuri' Competition 1995. The Prime Minister distributed prizes among 281 winners of the competition in a colourful ceremony.

Ummu Imam Nusrat Imrose Tisha became champion in the junior group becoming first in four categories while Rudaba Adin Kumkum was the champion in senior group with three firsts and one second position.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed, Information Secretary Akmal Hossain, DG of the BTV Syed Salahuddin Zaki and GM (Dhaka) Nawajish Ali Khan.

The prize giving ceremony was followed by a cultural function participated by the winning artists of Natun Kuri and witnessed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The three-hour long programme was telecast live with presentation by former Natun Kuri champions like popular artists Tarana Halim, Diba, Ishita, Tarin and Shaon.

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01. Biman invites sealed offers in two envelope system (Technical and Financial) from Airlines or Aircraft Overhauling Agencies, having in-house capability/facility for accomplishment of 'D'-Check (HMY) on DC10-30 aircraft, for performance of D2-Check on one of its DC10-30 aircraft Regn'S2-ACR.
02. The check will be due for accomplishment in the first week of January, 1999.
03. Sealed offer must be addressed to Director Engineering, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Engineering Hangar Complex, Zia International Airport, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh and dropped in the Tender Box kept in his Secretariat latest by 1200 hours BST (0600 UTC) on 05 July, 1998. Tenders shall be opened at 1500 hours (BST) on the same day in presence of the bidders or their authorised representatives, if any.
04. No offer by fax/telex shall be accepted.
05. Bidder is to submit ten (10) sets of bid alongwith original or certified photocopy of the money receipt in respect of purchase of tender schedule.
06. Clarification, if any, may be sought from Director Engineering, latest by 18 June 1998 through telephone 880-2-894460, Fax 880-2-893338 or 893353 or SITA: DACDEBG.
07. Tender schedule containing workpackage and detailed specification with terms and conditions will be made available with the Accounts Officer, Cash & Banking, Finance Directorate, Biman Head Office, Balaka Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka during working hours from 04 May, 1998 to 04 June, 1998 for sale on cash payment (non-refundable) of Taka 11,500.00 (Taka eleven thousand five hundred) only. Tender schedule will also be available in the following overseas offices of Biman for sale on cash payment (non-refundable) of US\$ 250.00 (US dollar two hundred fifty) only from 04 May, 1998 to 04 June, 1998.
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Director Engineering

Seminar on economic reforms opens in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 19: A two-day international seminar on "recent trends of economic reforms in the SAARC region" was opened by Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Lutfor Rahman Sarkar at the Senate Bhaban on Rajshahi University today, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS), Rajshahi University, and the International Institute for Development Studies (IIDS), Calcutta, India, the seminar is being attended by about one hundred fifty noted economists of the country, including twenty five from India, three from Australia and two from Nepal.

Presided over by Prof Atful Hye Shibly, Director, IBS, Rajshahi University, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Abdul Khaleque, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof M Sayeedur Rahman Khan and Prof M Zainul Abedin, IBS, Rajshahi University.

Fifty-eight papers will be read out in the seminar in six business sessions by noted economists of SAARC countries, Australia and the USA.

Abul Mal Al Muhith, former minister, Mahbubur Rahman Khan and Prof M A Hamid chaired three business sessions on the opening day and thirty-one noted economists, includ-

ing Dr Alak Ghose, Dr Prabir Biswas, Dr Buddhadeb Ghose, Prof Chitra Ghose, Dr Smriti Mukherjee, Dr Amarjit Singh Sethi, Dr Mrunalini Fandnavi of India, Dr Pitamber Chetri of Nepal and Prof M Ismail Hossain, Dr Kaymuddin and M A Raquib of Bangladesh, among others, presented papers in the seminar.

Our Correspondent adds: Lutfor Rahman Sarkar said, Sri Lanka was the first to start economic reforms in the seventies, then Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

"All these countries have initiated various economic reforms with a varying degree of success and are trying to modernise their economies for increased efficiency in production, distribution and trade with the ultimate objective of ensuring a reasonably high standard of living for their masses," he said and observed that there could be no alternative to successful reforms in different sectors of the economy to speed up performance in general.

World Poetry Day tomorrow

World Poetry Day will be observed throughout the world tomorrow by the International PEN and its affiliated bodies, says a press release.

JPPP meet today

A meeting of the Parliamentary Party of Jatiya Party will be held today at 2 pm at the party office at Jatiya Sangsad, a party press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Rejoinder

From Page 1

Bids in question followed two-envelope procedures. Accordingly the technical submissions of Packages I, II, III and IV were first evaluated by the International Tender Evaluation Committee (ITEC) formed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW). These were scrutinised by 22 eminent and highly qualified medical professionals (Professors and Heads of Departments, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors) of the relevant medical institutes of the country. As per provisions of the guidelines of the ERD and the ADB reports containing detailed findings were sent to the ADB. In its turn the ADB had sent a two-member mission consisting of an international medical equipment expert and a senior procurement specialist who had examined the bids in detail and interviewed the bidders and submitted its report direct to the ADB. The Bank followed its own procedures in examining these reports by its legal and procurement experts.

As per rules of the GOB, Ministry's Purchase Committee scrutinised these and agreed with the evaluation and ADB's recommendations. Every step had been taken as per laid down procedures and there was no illegality whatsoever.

However, in deference to the directives of the Parliamentary Committee on Estimates (COE) and Parliamentary Sub-Committee No. 1 related to MOHFW, PMU has not yet opened L/Cs in respect of these contracts. So there was no financial loss to the government and the question of any corruption does not arise at all.

Now we would briefly comment on the specific points mentioned in the news report as follows:

1. There were no irregularities whatsoever in the evaluation of the bids on medical equipment. All had been done as per rules and regulations of the ADB and the GOB and as per terms of the Loan Agreement.

2. No bid had been found "substantially responsive" where there was no assurance of adequate service facilities of the bidder's local agent.

3. PMU had not qualified any bid with "major deviations".

4. No bid was qualified despite failing to mention "warranted performance and expected efficiency of equipment".

5. PMU had not considered any bidder "responsive" who had not quoted for specific instruments.

6. No bid had been qualified on detection of 'false' signatures.

7. No bid 'came out to be responsive' which 'failed to fulfill specifications of the tender documents'.

8. Although the bidding documents required that bid security to be issued/endorsed by a schedule bank of Bangladesh, ADB had by its written reply considered bid security posted by any reputed foreign bank to be in order and acceptable.

9. Neither the Secretary of the ministry nor the PD, PMU had 'abstained' from giving any information sought by any Committee. It may be mentioned here that we had neither met the "six MPs from AL, three from BNP and one from JP" of COE nor were they ever present in any of the meeting held in this respect except the Chairman of the Committee and two liaison officers.

10. Concluding of contracts by PMU for Packages III and IV were done on approval by ADB and GOB.

11. Finally, the whole evaluation is still being examined by the Parliamentary Sub-Committee and how could any judgement be passed before the examination is complete?

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Business Advisory Services Center (BASC), an USAID supported private development company, is organizing the following training workshops at Dhaka.
■ BRAND MANAGEMENT
May 3 & 4 '98 (2:30pm -8:30pm)
Suitable for Marketing Executives, Brand Managers responsible for managing brands; and Account Management & Account Planning Personnel working for advertising agencies. This workshop will help the participants to update knowledge and appreciation of the brand management process and functions.
■ CONTEMPORARY STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MARKETING FUNCTION
May 06 '98 (9:30am - 5:00 pm)
Suitable for CEO's, Potential CEO's, Marketing Managers and Heads of Commercial departments. This workshop will help the participants to understand and appreciate the management strategies that successful companies adopt in the emerging business environment.
■ STRATEGIC MARKETING OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
May 07 '98 (9:30am-5:00 pm)
Suitable for Senior and Middle Managers with responsibility for the corporate/strategic planning and marketing functions within financial services institutions. This workshop will help the participants to understand and appreciate the importance of strategic marketing - as a fundamental business discipline.
Mr. Hilmy Cader, an expatriate marketing practitioner will facilitate the workshops. Mr. Cader is the Managing Director (Middle East & South Asia) for Marketing Technologies International. He is a distinguished Fellow, Graduate and Registered Marketer of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK).
For registration and further information please contact:
• Harunur Rashid, Program Manager, HRD & Training Division
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