

Metropolitan

Ivy has been rescued, but what about others?

BNWLA saves one woman from an Indian brothel, but many others remain untraced

By Naimul Haq

One dark night two years ago, four girls with two children accompanied by two men crossed the border into India with high hopes for prosperous jobs. Little did they know that the night would never end for them.

The girls and the children were sold to brothels in India by the men who had promised them jobs. They never thought that they would be able to escape from the nightmare that became life for them. Only one among them was luckier than the rest.

Ivy (not her real name), only eighteen years old now, was repatriated from a Delhi brothel where her husband sold her, and returned home on September 28 with the help of Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA).

"I was married to Khokan about five years ago. I had two children by him, a daughter and a son. One day, Khokan

proposed that we both go to India for better jobs. He said that I could also work there and be paid," Ivy said.

"I happily agreed, hoping of a better life and also that I would be able to send money to my poor parents. Ivy, from Bilpara village in bordering Goga union in Jessor, said.

She was smuggled along with the others through the Sarsha thana at Jessor border. They bribed the border guards from both sides to pass through. The journey on foot was difficult. After a while Ivy wanted to return with the children but the men threatened to hand them over to police.

The group travelled through Calcutta headed for New Delhi on train. Here Khokan and the unidentified man who travelled with them, abandoned Ivy with her children at a slum in Gauhati Nagar next to Jammu.

After being kept under lock and key for two months Ivy was

separated from her children and taken sold for 40,000 rupees to a woman called Madhu, also known as Rani, at a brothel at Azmari Gate in Old Delhi. She never saw her children again.

"I was raped and beaten up on the first night by a number of men and threatened with torture and told to cooperate or face grave consequences.

It was after 2 years of this heinous life as a sex worker that she was forced to become, that a Bengali speaking client took pity on her and informed the police.

She was taken to jail from where she was transferred to Nari Nirjatan Home in Delhi where she received treatment for trauma and psychiatric therapy.

Bangladesh BNWLA came to know about Ivy through a network known as "STOP" which has watchdog in jails and courts. After the usual formalities between two countries was brought back home on September 28. Monminul Islam Shuroj, investigation officer of the organisation said.

The biggest problem is helping these type of victims is that there is no bilateral agreement between the two countries. The process for their repatriation, as a result, become difficult," Advocate Salma Ali, Executive Officer BNWLA said.

Ivy will be reunited with her parents as soon as the flood waters in Jessor, where her parents live, recede. In the meantime, she is being given vocational training to be able to earn a livelihood.

The whereabouts of the other women who were with Ivy is not yet known. The fate of her children is also not clear yet.

Khokan and the man who was the mastermind behind Ivy's fate continue their trade of women across the border. Khokan is believed to be living in Malapota in Khulna City. A case will soon be filed against him.

Ivy was very lucky, but many more women from our country are perishing in brothels in the neighbouring countries. Can they all be rescued and brought back?

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Ref No: Proc/R. Proj/ AECD/2000-2001 Date: 25.09.2000

International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bona fide Local/International suppliers for the supply of Scientific Instruments/Spares/Chemicals etc. against the project on (i) "Strengthening of personal radiation monitoring infrastructure in Bangladesh" (ii) Improvement of analytical facility for quality assured multi-element analysis (iii) Upgradation of NDT Laboratory (iv) Monitoring and characterization of atmospheric pollution at different cities in Bangladesh (v) Investigation of arsenic pollution in the ground water of Bangladesh and its mitigation (vi) Development of soft and permanent magnet ferrites for commercial application using local magnetite (vii) Development of materials for the fabrication of thin film solar cells (viii) Characterisation of semiconducting materials by photoelectromagnetic effect (ix) Voltammetry for ultra analysis in environment protection area." Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (Atomic Energy Centre), Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tender documents will be available during office hours up to 13.11.2000 at a cost of Tk. 1000 (Taka One thousand only) (non-refundable) from the office of the Senior Accounts Officer, Atomic Energy Centre, 4, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka on written request in the prescribed form obtainable from the office of the undersigned showing (1) Current year trade licence (2) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate (3) Bank solvency certificate (4) VAT registration certificate and (5) IRC. No tender will be sold on the day of opening of the tender. Tender with 2.5% (two and half per cent) Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee to be submitted in favour of "Project Director of Improvement of analytical facility for quality assured multi-element analysis" shall have to be dropped in the tender box kept in the Procurement Branch, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka up to 12.00 Noon of 14.11.2000 and will be opened at 12.15 PM on the same day in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may wish to be present. Tender receipt without earnest money shall be summarily rejected. If there occurs total transport disruption or Government holiday on the opening date, the next normal working day will be treated as valid opening date of tender keeping time, place and all other terms intact.

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Intending bidders may inspect the drawing/designs in the office of the Chief Engineer, CAAB, during office hours.

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Asaduzzaman Choudhury

Chief Engineer

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

DFP-23982-3/10

G-1756

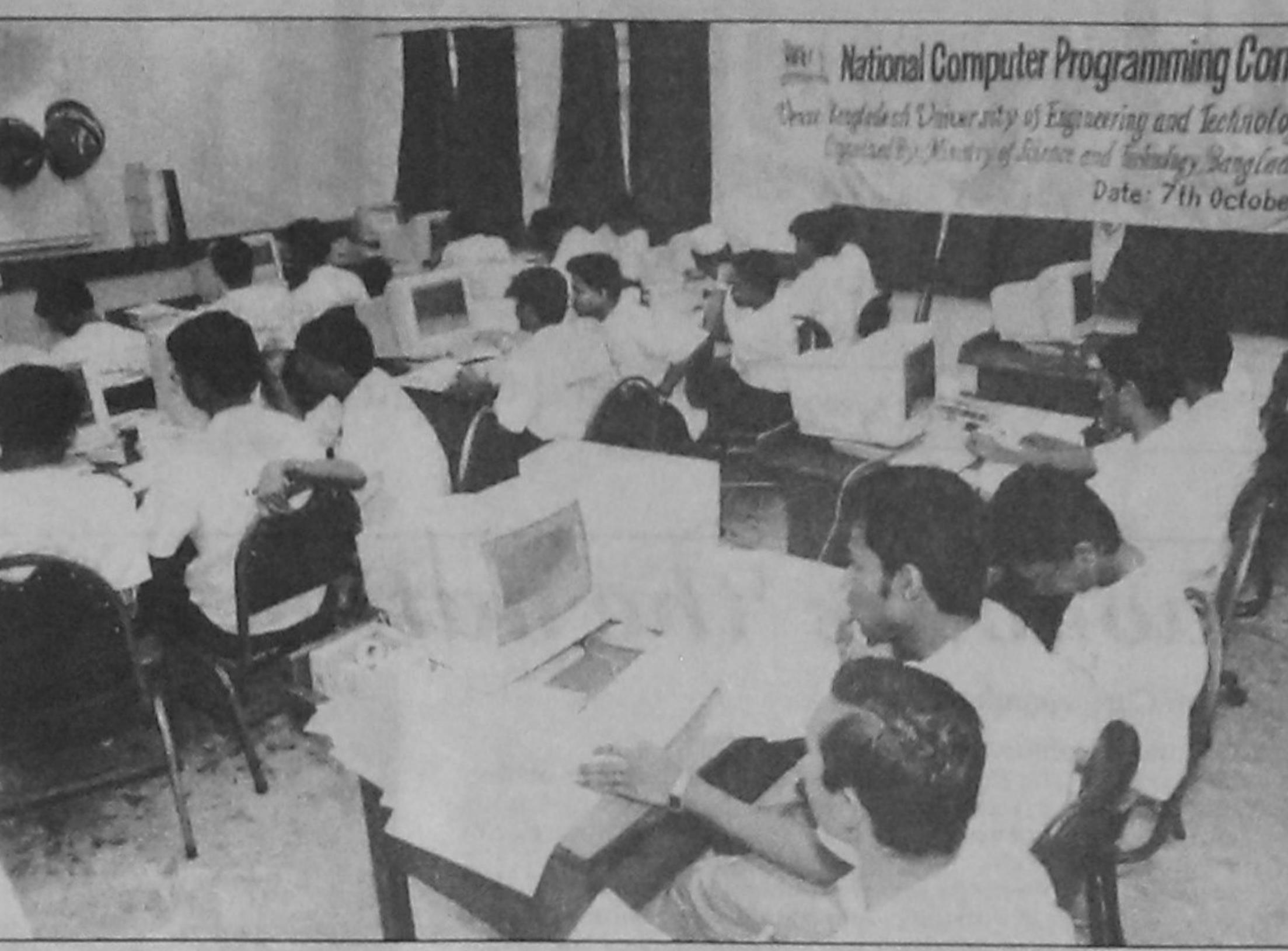
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DFP-23986-3/10

G-1755

Administrative Officer (Proc)

Phone: 8625491



The National Computer Programming Contest 2000, organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology, was held at the premises of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in the city yesterday. Picture shows a section of the competitors at work. -- Star photo

Publication ceremony of Home Health Care

One need not rush to doctors, hospitals in all cases of illness

One need not rush to doctors or hospitals in all cases of illness, reports UNB.

A former medical officer of World Health Organisation (WHO) has prescribed solution to a variety of common diseases and accidents that can provide a family homespun treatment.

The book entitled Home Health Care, written by Dr KM Rashid, formerly Medical Officer of World Health Organisation, makes common people more conscious about their health problems, enable them to suspect the nature of illnesses and participate in the treatment.

The handy medical book emphasizes general observational skills which help a person suspect a deviation from normal health conditions, describes nearly a hundred health problems or illnesses and provides information on some health-related topics.

Introduction of alternative medicine under the chapter 'herbal medicine' is important and interesting, medical experts observed at a ceremony held yesterday marking publication of the book.

The publication ceremony was held at the National Press Club. National Professor Dr MR Khan graced the occasion as chief guest while Dr Shireen

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Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited by Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute, Ishwardi, Pabna as per specific schedule from the bonafide traders/suppliers/importers establishments for supplying 1 (one) MF Tractor, 2 (two) Diks plough, 2 (two) Diks Harrow in a project for strengthening ADP for the interest of research work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at (1) Administration Division, Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute, Ishwardi, Pabna; (2) Procurement Division, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215 on 31-10-2000 /16-7-1407 Bang till 12.00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM before the tenderers or their nominated representatives present (if anyone remain present). Tender schedule containing detailed description and rules and regulations will be available on payment of Taka 750/- (seven hundred and fifty) in cash (non-refundable) in the offices mentioned below during office hours till 4.00 PM. No schedule will be sold on the day of opening tender.

a) Accounts Division, Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute, Ishwardi, Pabna.

b) Senior Assistant Director (Procurement), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215. 2.5% of the given rate as the earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order from any schedule bank against the Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute will have to be submitted with the tender.

The authority reserves the power to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

SM Saiful Hasan

Chief, Administration

Division

BDRCS takes up Tk 12 cr flood relief programme

Armed forces working in flood-hit areas

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has been working to help about a million flood affected people with general and medical relief. A meeting of the organisation was held yesterday, reports BSS.

BDRCS secretary general Ali Hassan Quoreshi informed the meeting that it has plans to assist 775,000 people with general relief and about 100,000 people with medical relief for a period varying from one week to three months.

The Taka 12 crore programme includes distribution of 3,360 metric tons of foodstuff, medical operations through 16 medical teams, distribution of two million water purifying tablets, 100,000 doses of oral rehydration salts and 18,200 sardes. The plan also includes providing plastic roofing materials for 18,200 families and 33,600 CI sheets, the secretary said.

He was speaking at a meeting of senior officials of the BDRCS about the current flood situation and ongoing Red Crescent relief operation, a press release said. Chairman of BDRCS Sheikh Kabir Hossain earlier spoke of the overall response of the organisation in addressing the sudden calamity which has hit the South-Western Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Armed Forces
Nearly one lakh and fifty thousand flood affected people have been evacuated and treated by members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, it was officially stated yesterday.

The Armed Forces personnel have so far evacuated 11,500 marooned people and 20,404 affected people, ISPR release said.

Meanwhile they (Armed Forces) continued their flood relief activities in greater

Rajshahi, Kushtia, Jessore and Khulna districts in close coordination with the local administration and other agencies. Their relief teams continued activities in 92 unions 19 in Meherpur, 20 in Chuadanga, 12 in Jhenidah, 29 in Jessor and 12 in Sylhet districts.

The Army personnel so far distributed 20 thousand 700 packets of dry food and 53 dakhis of cooked food, 14 thousand 576 kg of flattened rice, 25 thousand 700 gallons of pure drinking water, seven thousand 925 packet of oral saline, nine thousand kg of rice, one thousand 960 pieces of clothes and 64 thousand pieces of bread from their own resources.

Army speedboats are being used for distribution of relief materials from government sources, while the members of the Army engineering corps are using pumps for draining out floodwaters at Chuadanga and Jhenidah districts.

BAF helicopters are carrying out five to six sorties a day from Jessor base to Karpashanda, Jibon Nagar and Mohepur. Benapole, Kalaroa and Sylhet. Besides carrying out relief materials, the choppers are also being used for air dropping and evacuating marooned people to safe places, the press release added.

More allocation

Meanwhile, the Relief and Disaster Management Ministry sanctioned another 325 metric tons of rice yesterday for the flood-affected people in different districts of the country.

Of the total, 100 tons have been given to each of Jessor and Sylhet districts, 50 tons to each of Jhenidah and Chuadanga and 25 tons to Meherpur district, an official press release said.

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Bangladesh Power Development Board
TENDER NOTICE

Name of work: Transportation of goods under development head. Eligibility of contractor: Power Development Board's current financial year enlisted contractors. Contractors having experience of transportation work with certificate on minimum Tk 5 lakh worth of transportation work, can purchase tender on production of the same. Estimated cost: Tk 2,66,487/45 (Taka two lakh sixty six thousand four hundred eighty seven and poisa forty five) only. Price of tender: Tk 200/- (two hundred) only (non-refundable) should be deposited in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft in favour of Deputy Director (Accounts), Zonal Accounts Office, PDB, Mymensingh. Place & date of availability tender: Can be purchased from Chief Engineer, Distribution, Central Zone, PDB, Mymensingh/ Superintending Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle, PDB, Mymensingh/ Agrani Bank, Sherpur branch, Sherpur subject to permission of the undersigned up to 25-10-2000. Date of receiving & opening tender: At the above mentioned offices (except bank), office of the undersigned up to 12-00 noon of 26-10-2000 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 hours in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers. Other terms & conditions and all rules & regulations of tender stated in the schedule must be complied with properly.

Biddut/Jana-631(4)/2000-2001

DFP-23896-2/10

G-1758

Executive Engineer

Distribution Division

PDB, Sherpur