



Prof Yunus gets King Hussein Humanitarian Leadership Award

Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank, has received the first King Hussein Humanitarian Leadership Award for his pioneering work in the global micro finance movement, reports UNB.

The award was given in Amman on Wednesday at a simple ceremony marking the birthday of late King Hussein by King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The award which carries a \$5,000 US dollar prize was received by Grameen Trust's Assistant General Manager Lamia Mursheed on behalf of Prof Yunus who addressed the ceremony via pre-recorded video tape.

The King Hussein Humanitarian Leadership Award was introduced to recognise efforts to promote sustainable development, human rights, tolerance, equity and peace.

M Anwarul Haq, a special correspondent of The Daily Star, was elected president unopposed for a second term while Abul Bashar of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha became vice president.

The election was held at Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Computerised voting system was used during the polling. The results were declared in the evening.

Other elected office-bearers are: Joint secretary - Saleh Shibly (UNB), treasurer - Qudus Afrad (Purbokone), organising secretary - Rezaul Karim Lotus (The Daily Star), sports secretary - Imrul Kabir Simon (Matrubhumi), cultural secretary - Shabnam Mahmud (BTV), and office secretary - Assaduzzaman Samrat (Akher Kagoj).

Earlier, Pathik Saha of the Bhorer Dak and Amanur Rahman of the Purbanchal were elected publicity secretary and research secretary respectively unopposed.

Ten elected members of the executive committee are Farid Ahmed, Munni Saha, Harunur Rashid, Mahmud Al Faisal, Md Badruzzaman, Rashed Ahmed Mitul, Shawkat Osman Ruchi, Sultan Mahmud Badal, Subash Chandra Badal and Kairul Alam Bakul.

M Anwarul Haq

DRU election

Anwarul Haq

president,

Masum gen secy

By Staff Correspondent

A new executive committee of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) was elected yesterday with M Anwarul Haq and Motahar Hussain Masum as its president and general secretary respectively.

M Anwarul Haq, a special correspondent of The Daily Star, was elected president unopposed for a second term while Abul Bashar of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha became vice president.

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Diploma Nurses Assoc meet held

By Staff Correspondent

The central executive council of the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association held a meeting at the Suhrawardy Hospital Campus yesterday.

President of the association Toshoshi Bhattacharja presided over the meeting.

The new committee of city unit of the association was formed at the meet. Krishna Rani Dey was elected president, Delwar Chowdhury Dipa general secretary and Akram Hosain the organizing secretary of the committee.

The speakers at the meeting raised their various demands including wage scale for nurses, proper promotion, overtime payment and shift allowance.

They called for realisation of their demands by January 2001.

Among others, Ihsrat Jahan, Fatema Khatun, Kana Bala, Jasmin Nahar, Jasminuddin, Shahnur Khanam, Selina Khatun, Mira Ghosh and Pravati Bishwas, spoke at the meeting.

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Sylhet Gas Fields Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Re-Tender Notice

Invitation for Bid (IFB) for Procurement of Supply, Dismantling & Installation of Insulation Materials for Insulating the Bottom, Middle & Top Section of the De-Ethanizer Column

I.F.B. No. SGFL/FP-12/2000

I. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, a Company of Petrobangla, invites sealed offers in the form of bid under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures for turnkey supply, dismantling & installation of insulation materials for De-ethanizer column and remedy of defects (if arises) upon putting into services at Kailashita Gas Field (MSTE plant), Sylhet, Bangladesh.

II. The details of the scope and conditions of supply, terms and the information required to be furnished by the bidders, etc. are given in the tender document.

III. The tender document will be available from 16-11-2000 to 17-12-2000 between 09:00 hrs. and 17:00 hrs. on all working days on payment of Tk. 1000.00 (non-refundable) at the following addresses:

1. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited P.O. Chiknagool Sylhet, Bangladesh

3. Bakhrahd Gas Systems Ltd, Dhaka Liaison Office, Plot No. 3, Road No. 2/A, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

5. Titas Gas T&D Company Ltd., Titas Bhaban, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

7. Gas Transmission Company Ltd, House-1, Road-12, Section-3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh.

IV. A single envelope tendering procedure will be followed. One sealed envelope will contain both the "Technical Proposal" consisting of the technical aspects only without any reference to price and the "Financial Proposal" consisting of the financial aspects.

V. Bids will be received (both the proposals) in SGFL's Head Office at Sylhet and its Liaison Office at Dhaka up to 12:00 hrs. (BST) on 18-12-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 hrs (BST) in presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the opening of the tender.

VI. No extension of the closing date and time will be allowed by SGFL on any account and bid(s) received after the deadline for submission of bids will be returned unopened.

VII. In case of any unavoidable circumstance such as strike, civil commotion, government declared holiday etc., bids will be received and opened on the following working day at the same place and time.

VIII. No tender document will be sold on the day of bid opening.

IX. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason.



Visitors at the solo sculpture show of Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan which began at Shilpangan Art Gallery in the city yesterday.

20 pc of healthcare wastes hazardous to life

WHO facts-sheet reveals

Immunisation, diagnostic tests, medical treatment, laboratory examinations and the like are life-saving healthcare activities, but the wastes and byproducts they generate bounce back the noble tasks proving hazardous to life, reports WHO.

From the total of wastes generated by the healthcare activities, almost 80 per cent are general wastes comparable to domestic wastes. The remaining 20 per cent approximated are considered hazardous materials that may be infectious, toxic or radioactive," says the World Health Organisation.

WHO, in its facts-sheet available here, says the wastes and byproducts cover a diverse range of materials. Infectious and anatomic wastes together represent the majority of the hazardous wastes, up to 15 per cent of the total wastes from the healthcare activities.

As per WHO, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, wastes from infected patients, wastes contaminated with blood and its derivatives, discarded diagnostic samples, infected animals from laboratories and contaminated materials like swabs and bandages are considered as infectious wastes.

Anatomic wastes are recognisable body parts and animal carcasses.

Genotoxic wastes are highly hazardous, mutagenic, teratogenic which is capable of producing fetal malformation, radioactive matters such as glassware contaminated with radioactive diagnostic material or radiotherapeutic materials and wastes with high heavy metal content broken mercury thermometers.

WHO says high-income countries can generate up to 6 kg of hazardous waste per person per year, but the total healthcare waste per person per year is 0.5 to 3 kg in the low-income countries where medical waste is usually not separated into hazardous or non-hazardous waste.

Healthcare waste is a reservoir of potentially harmful micro-organisms, which can infect patients, healthcare workers and general public," WHO says.

The major sources of healthcare wastes are hospitals and other healthcare establishments, laboratories and research centres, mortuary and autopsy centre, blood banks and nursing homes for the elderly.

Other potential infectious risks include the spread of sometimes resistant, microorganism, from healthcare establishments into the environment. "These risks have so far been only poorly investigated," WHO experts explained in its factsheet.

Throughout the world every year an estimated 12000 million injections are administered. If those needles and syringes are not properly disposed of, they generate a considerable risk for injury and infection and opportunities for reuse.

WHO says worldwide 8-16 million hepatitis B, 2.3 to 4.7 million hepatitis C and 80,000 to 160,000 HIV infections are estimated to occur yearly from reuse of syringe needles without sterilization and many of these infections could be avoided if syringes were disposed of safely.

Referring to the diagnosis of six children with a mild form of smallpox (varicella virus) after having played with glass ampoules containing expired smallpox vaccine at a garbage dump in Vladivostok of Russia this year, WHO also suggests

On the occasion, a discussion and *midat mafhil* will be held at 4 pm at his Gulshan residence. Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the *midat*.

The second death anniversary of Dr. Ali Ahmad, former Principal of Dhaka College and an eminent educationist and writer, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a *midat mafhil* and *dou* will be held after Asr prayers at his residence at Road No 19 (Old), 10A (New), 1 Extn, Dhanmondi.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *midat*.

Bangladesh, Denmark agree on prudent macroeconomic policy

Bangladesh and Denmark in their annual consultation agreed on the importance of political stability, working democracy and a prudent macroeconomic policy for securing development and poverty reduction in the country, reports UNB.

The 5-day consultation between the two countries began in Dhaka on November 13 and concluded yesterday adopting the recommendations.

Denmark hoped the general elections in 2001 would be free and fair and lead to strengthen democracy in Bangladesh.

While assuring increased development assistance in future, the Danish side hoped that a new government formed through the coming polls would

undertake necessary economic reforms to overcome the development challenges facing Bangladesh.

ERD Joint Secretary AKM Kairul Islam led the Bangladesh delegation while head of the department for Asia and the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Carsten Nilaus Pedersen led his country's delegation.

At the talks the two sides discussed political and economic situation in Bangladesh, and the development cooperation between the two countries. The two delegations agreed that Danish development assistance in the future would also be channelled to Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Danish delegation commended the government of Bangladesh and the PCJSS for the Peace Accord in December 1997 and urged full implementation of the accord. They expressed the hope that the development assistance would strengthen the peace process.

It is envisaged that the country strategy for the period 2001-05 would focus on sector programme support to water supply, transport and agriculture. Assistance will also be given to improve human rights, building of the democracy, including decentralization, and gender issues.

Denmark underlined that the main objective for Danish development assistance is poverty alleviation. Bangladesh has made progress in this regard and the government has declared poverty alleviation its highest goal.

However, with about half the population under the poverty line and with the increasing

population, the challenges are enormous.

The delegation confirmed that the development cooperation is based on the concept of sector programme support and that all three sector programmes to an amount of 1.8 billion DKK or Tk 1.170 crore had been approved by the Danish authorities and signed by the two governments.

It was informed that slow establishment of new components and slow implementation of ongoing activities had made it necessary to reduce the country's frame in 2000 from 280 million DKK (Tk 182 crore) to 230 million DKK (Tk 149.5 crore). The Danish assistance to Bangladesh is expected to increase to 375 million DKK (Tk 243 crore) in 2004.

With regard to the cooperation with drinking water and sanitation the two sides recognized the seriousness of arsenic in water. The Danish delegation informed that it was ready to sign an Arsenic Mitigation Component to start early 2001.

They agreed that slapping policy is crucial for development of the transport-sector programme support.

Both sides stressed the importance of civil society, including NGOs, and the role of the civil society to improve the human rights situation and the rights for women and children.

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