

### 'Ensure safe environment at workplaces'

BSS, Dhaka  
Environment and forest Minister Shajahan Siraj yesterday stressed the need for combined efforts to ensure safety and environment friendly atmosphere at workplaces.

Free Trade Unions (ICTU), Bangladesh Council, organised the conference with the assistance of Japan International Labour Foundation (JILAF).

Held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Management on occupational health, safety and environment, the conference was also addressed by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Primary and Mass Education Prof. Jahannara Begum as special guest.

The environment minister said the local industrialists and manufacturers should ensure safe, environment-friendly working atmosphere in their installations right now as the importers of Bangladeshi products will attach the environmental aspect as the main condition after 2004.

This must be done in the interest of the entrepreneurs, workers and the country, he said.

The conference expressed solidarity with the theme of the International Women's Year. A big rally was brought out after the conference, which paraded the Mirpur Road. The minister and the advisor took part in the rally.



PHOTO STAR  
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina speaking at a seminar on 'Women and politics' at the National Press Club yesterday. The Women of Bangladesh - Information and Research organised the seminar to mark the International Women's Day.

### Pay arrears to garment workers in 2 months

BGMEA urges factory owners

UNB, Dhaka

BGMEA president Kutubuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the factory owners to pay arrears to the garment workers in next two months.

"If it is not done in two months, punitive steps would be taken," he said at a rally of workers on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Mentioning various problems of garment workers, most of whom are women, he urged the factory owners to give special attention to the problems besides paying their salaries regularly.

As the garment-sector trade body leader spoke, as many as 4 lakh workers faces uncertain future due to closure of several hundred factories in the wake of a recession following the September 11 attacks on USA.

In their effort to provide medical facilities to garment workers, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will set up a 150-

bed modern hospital in the city's Mirpur area.

Work on the hospital project will start next month and is expected to complete in two years.

The BGMEA president disclosed the plan while addressing a brief discussion meeting in Mallabagh Railgate area in the afternoon to mark the International Women's Day.

Prior to the meeting, BGMEA in association with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) brought out a procession of more than 500 workers who were holding umbrellas with the slogan "Ensure the rights of women workers".

Speaking at the function, the BGMEA president said about 95 per cent workers in the industry are women and they are underprivileged, although their effort contribute 76 per cent to country's total export earnings.

Acting Representative of UNFPA Md Nurul Ameen and BGMEA director M Lutfur Rahman Matin also addressed the function.

### Fire Service & Civil Defence week begins today

UNB, Dhaka

Aiming to make the public aware about how to fight fire and other accidents, Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) Week-2002, begins today.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury will inaugurate the march-past and rally of the fire-fighters at the FSCD training complex at Mirpur in the city at 9:30 am on Sunday.

State Minister for Home Affairs M Lutfuzzaman Babar will be present in the FSCD annual programme as special guest.

On the occasion, President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave separate messages stressing the need for building effective fire-safety mechanism.

In his message, the President called for creating awareness among the people about prevention of all accidents, including fire.

"The role of the people is very important in tackling the calamity," he said in his message on the eve of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week 2002.

He suggested building up modern fire service and civil defence service alongside increasing standard of services.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in her message said the government is pledge-bound to build a modern and skilled workforce in the field of Fire Service and Civil Defences, aiming to make safe from accidents.

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The Deputy Director will aid the Director and will be required to take the helm on many occasions. Good writing skills and experience in event management are plus points. S/he must be a person of integrity who is confident of her/his abilities to deal with peers, to direct and manage subordinates. S/he must initiate, promote and generate ideas in the interest of work, have very good communication skills, excellent command of Bangla and English, be fully conversant with computers and should be willing to accommodate a range of responsibilities. A Masters degree from a recognized University, job experience upwards of 5 years and age between 30 to 45 years is expected.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
The Assistant Director will assist the Director and the Deputy Director in dispensing their duties. In view of the wide variety of operations, s/he must be flexible in attitude and accommodating. Good writing skills and experience in event management are plus points. An imaginative person of integrity, with strong administrative capability, preferably a Masters degree from any recognized University, good communication skills, excellent command over Bangla and English, fully conversant with computers, work experience of 3 to 5 years and aged between 25 to 35 years will be considered suitable for the job.

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Persons applying for any of the positions are required to have strong personal commitment in their jobs. Remuneration package will be decided according to the individual's suitability to the job. The application, in plain paper, must include the person's recent photograph and CV. The name of the position must be typed out in bold letters on the envelope. Interested persons may apply to the following address by April 7, 2002:

Luva N. Choudhury  
Director

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