

DHAKA TODAY

Shishu Adhikar Forum

The Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will arrange a colourful children assembly named 'Mere Puppet' on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour. About 3,500 working children will take part in it. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 9:00am.

Drawing competition

A drawing competition for the children working as domestic help and a cultural function will be held on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2:30pm.

Premiere show

The premiere show of 'Fulkumar', directed by Ashiq Mustafa, will be held. Venue: Shawkat Osman auditorium, Public Library. Time: 7:00pm.

Orientation ceremony

Under the National University, the Institute of Business Administration and Technological Studies organises an orientation ceremony for its BBA and BSc in Computer Science students with Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00am.

Arganta Film Society

The closing ceremony of a six-day-long film session on renowned Indian film makers Aparna Sen and Mira Nair's film in connection with the 26th anniversary

of Arganta International Film Society will be held. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

Economists' Forum

The Nationalist Economists' Forum organises a discussion meeting on new national budget with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Garment Workers League

Bangladesh Textile and Garment Workers League organises a rally of child labour in observance of the World Day Against Child Labour. Venue: Muktagang, Ramna. Time: 9:00am.

Moon sighting meeting

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held with State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan as chief guest. Venue: Islamic Foundation conference room. Time: 7:45pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Seminar

In observance of National Scientific Information and Documentation Day, a seminar will be held with Science, Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: BANSDOC auditorium, Mirpur Road. Time: 9:00am.



Participants at a workshop on 'Violence Against Women', organised by the South-South Centre, Bangladesh, in the city yesterday. From left are Director of the South-South Centre Jalaluddin Ahmed, UNFPA representative Suneeta Mukharjee, Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Haque, Health Secretary M Fazlur Rahman, and Women and Children Affairs Secretary Mahfuzul Islam.

Call to adopt national policy to stop violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for adopting a national policy to stop violence against women through proper implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

They suggested an integrated approach in dealing with the problems and called for involving women at all levels of policy-making.

Organised by the South-South Centre, Bangladesh, the workshop on 'Violence against Women' was held in the city yesterday.

The participants pointed to the various forms of violence against women - such as wife battering, dowry-related violence, sexual abuse, rape, marital rape, intimidation at work, sex-selective abortions, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, female genital mutilation and forced pregnancy.

They suggested forming proper monitoring cells by the law enforcement agencies, creating a special unit for investigation into violence against women, raising

mass awareness, reviewing all existing laws and providing security for the victims and witnesses.

Presenting the keynote paper, Salma Khan, Chairperson of the NGO coalition on Beijing Plus Five, said, "The degree of violence perpetrated against women directly relates to level of women's access to and control over family and community resources. As more women can take charge of their lives, they will be less subjected to male authority and exploitation."

Referring to a Unicef study on family violence and rape, she said that four factors contribute to gender-based violence in a particular society. These are economic inequality between men and women, male authority and control of decision making, restriction on women's ability to leave family setting and cultural tradition of subjugation of women.

Trafficking in women and children is an ever increasing form of violence against women, she said, adding that Bangladesh and Nepal are the two countries of origin from where women and children are mainly smuggled to India.

Salma also said that polygamy still remains a major cause of women's suffering and exploitation. "The inability to meet ever increasing dowry demands is a common cause for which a husband takes another wife, causing not only mental torture on the first wife but also physical torture and cruelty."

Prof. Abul Barkat, a teacher of DU Economics Department, said, "I strongly believe that the only way to address the complex issue of violence against women is to ensure 3 E's - equality, equity and empowerment - where empowerment must be viewed as a neces-

sary precondition for development."

Referring to the rape cases, Advocate Salma Ali of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), said, "We often do not get access to medical report and police often do not cooperate, which altogether makes it difficult for us to move such cases."

Shaheen Anam of CARE, Bangladesh, said, "It is a national shame that we live with violence against women and it continues to take place. As the government alone cannot deal with the issue, we must all get involved in addressing it."

She also suggested setting up a strong monitoring mechanism to check violence against women.

"We have had many probe commission reports, but, at one stage, they do not draw any conclusion as there is no monitoring mechanism. So, the perpetrators get away with it, knowing that they would not be punished."

Dr Dina Siddique, Senior Associate, Women Studies Centre, University of Pennsylvania, USA, also spoke.

Earlier, Khurshid Jahan Haque, Minister for Women and Children Affairs, inaugurated the workshop in the morning as chief guest.

Suneeta Mukharjee, UNFPA representative, Mahfuzul Islam, Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs were also present as special guests. M Fazlur Rahman, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, presided over the workshop while Jalaluddin Ahmed, Director of South-South Centre, delivered the welcome speech.

Mahfuzul Alam, Editor of The Independent, moderated the business session of the workshop.

'Nat'l poverty drops by 9 pc'

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has made notable progress in both income and poverty reduction since independence with national poverty dropping by 9 per cent in the last decade.

But the level of inequality has increased, and the rich-poor gap widened much more in urban areas than rural areas, according to official data.

However, the distribution of fruits of poverty reduction steps has not been equal across the regions, and gender inequality also prevails despite impressive improvement in social indicators.

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2000, prepared by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, shows the incidence of national poverty has declined from 58.8 to 49.8 per cent between 1991/92 and 2000.

On the basis of per capita GDP growth rate, the incidence of national poverty would display a slight drop by less than one per cent during the first half of the 90s and registered an impressive decline of about 11 per cent during the second half.

The income-poverty has to be brought down to 25 per cent if Bangladesh wants to achieve Millennium Development Goals of halving the number of poor people by 2015. For this, Bangladesh needs to sustain a GDP growth of about 7 per cent per year over the next 15 years.

The level of inequality has risen more in urban areas than in rural areas during the past decade. The level of consumption expenditure inequality has increased to 36.8 per cent from 30.7 per cent in urban areas and 27.1 per cent from 24.3 in rural areas.

The rising trends in inequality is possibly one important reason as to why the poverty reducing effects of accelerated growth were not translated in full in the 90s, Economic Relations Division said in a draft prepared for discussion with development partners for a national strategy on poverty.

The official draft, which will provide the basis for devising Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper,

identified sectoral and regional variations in poverty. Dhaka and Khulna (including Barisal) divisions have much lower incidence of poverty than Rajshahi, it said.

Progress in poverty reduction over the 90s has been unequal across the regions, with rapid progress in Dhaka division and very little change in Chittagong (including Sylhet) division.

There is considerable district-level variation in poverty also, as suggested by the district level agricultural wage data as well as various indicators of social deprivations such as illiteracy and child

mortality. Poverty incidence is typically higher for the landless, especially the farm labourers and other marginal workers.

The incidence of extreme poverty is generally higher for the patriarchal households. Poverty and social deprivations tend to be higher in case of the tribal people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and other areas.

Human poverty trends also showed considerable improvement in the past decade. The human poverty index (HPI), which stood at 61 per cent in the early 80s, declined to 35 per cent in the late 90s, says a BIDS report.

Rural poverty reduction progressed faster in 90s than in 80s. According to HIES (household income-expenditure survey) data, the incidence of rural poverty declined 0.9 per cent between '83-'84 and '91-'92, but registered a 9.3 per cent drop between '91-'92 and 2000.

Even though the pace of rural poverty reduction has accelerated, in the 90s, the overall pace of reduction remained modest - average 1 per cent decline per year. Rural poverty dropped from 47.9 per cent in 1996 to 44.9 per cent in 1999, the draft quoted BBS's poverty monitoring survey as saying.

Despite a higher agricultural growth, rural poverty reduction remained slow in the second half of 90s. Explaining the possible reasons, the ERD draft said increased rice production benefited more the farm labourers for low prices of rice than the rice growers for slow rise in paddy prices.

The head-count index of urban poverty declined from 34 per cent in 1991-'92 to 26 per cent in 2000. According to HIES data, the entire decrease in urban poverty during the 90s took place in the first half of the decade, while the second half experienced deterioration in urban poverty situation.

The worsening of urban poverty situation during the second half of 90s was almost entirely driven by negative growth in per capita real consumption.

The Lecture Session was supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the UNDP.

Students, teachers urged to help protect environment

Environmental concerns should be mainstreamed in the business and corporate culture to help preserve the nature and protect environment for a sustainable livelihood.

The call came at an 'Environmental Lecture Session' organised by the Forum for Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at its conference room in the city yesterday. A group of students from the Institute of Business Administration of the Jahangirnagar University attended the lecture as part of a series initiated by the FEJB for students.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and its founding member Shehabuddin Ahmed delivered the lecture.

Quamrul told the students that eco-friendly businesses are the future of successful business and industry. No business or trade can succeed ignoring the environmental issues, he added.

He urged the teachers and students to work together for conservation of environment from their respective positions.

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Building Consultants

Highly experienced engineers and architects available for consultancy and supervisory services of residential, office, industrial and all types of buildings. Please contact 'Supervisor Engineering Services', 9-10, Johura Market, Bangla Motors, Dhaka. Cell Phone: 018 22 8661, 017 14 0625, 017 23 1504. E-mail: bald@bdmail.net; web page: http://www.bgyellowpages.com/buildall. D-470

CAREER OPPORTUNITY Oxford International School

Applications are invited for the position of Teachers in Senior Level. Persons having good command in both spoken & written English and Masters or Post graduation Degree in English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Accounting, Economics, Geography or Computing Studies may appear at a Walk-in Interview from 09am to 01pm or from 02pm to 5:30pm on Saturday the 15th of June, 2002 at H 36, Rd. 27, Dhanmondi R/A, with detailed CV. Teaching experience in O/A Level classes in any reputed English Medium Institutions and foreign nationalities will be preferred.

Those who applied before need not apply again.

School Authority

Obituary

M A Sobhan, a photo journalist of daily Janapad, died of a cardiac arrest at Suhrawardi Hospital in Dhaka on June 10 at the age of 32, says a press release.

His kulkhwan will be held at his residence at 39, North South Road (Bangshal) after Zohr prayers today.

Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association has condoled his death.

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 স্বাধীনতা ভবন, শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ
 ৮৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
"আন্তর্জাতিক দরপত্র বিক্রি"

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	দ্রব্যের নাম	আর্নেস্টম্যান মোট মূল্যের উপর	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরৎ যোগ্য)	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	পিই/টিএ/আইএনটি/ টিআর-৩৩৯/২০০১-২০০২ তারিখ ০৯/৬/২০০২ইং	ভিডিও স্ক্রট ডেট কোড মেশিন।	২%	৩০০/- (তিনশত)	৩০/৬/০২ বেলা ৩-০০ ঘটিকা	৩০/৬/০২ বেলা ৩-১৫ ঘটিকা

উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব সমূহ ফেস্ফতে হবে। বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সম্বলিত টেন্ডার সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা এর অর্থ বিভাগ থেকে প্রতি কার্য দিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকেল ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পাওয়া যাবে। টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রি হবে না।
 কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সুলভ টেন্ডার বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
 মোঃ আজিজুর রহমান
 মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য

Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust
 Swadhinata Bhaban
 88, Motijheel C/A. Dhaka-1000.
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
 The second paragraph of "PROPOSAL INVITATION NOTICE" for appointment of Developers / Organizations published in "The Daily Dinkal" and "The Daily Star" on June 07, 2002, is amended as follows:
 Instead of "Sharing", please read "Sharing / Development and Ownership Transfer (DOT)"
 1. All other expression laid down in the notice will remain unchanged.
 2. This "Corrigendum Notice" will also be the part of Tender documents and will be binding upon the Developers / Organizations.
 (Md. Moiz Uddin Khan)
 Secretary

BLF
 BANGLADESH LIONS FOUNDATION
 Lions Bhaban, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTIFICATION
 May 20, 2002

Notice in hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Lions Foundation (BLF) will be held on Thursday the 20th June, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. at Lion Humayun Zahir Auditorium, Lions Bhaban, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Agargaon, Dhaka to transact the following agenda:

- To confirm the proceedings of 25th Annual General Meeting of BLF
- To consider and adopt the Annual Report of the Foundation for the year 2001-2002.
- To consider and adopt the Auditor's Report, Audited Accounts & Balance Sheet for the year 2001-2002. (1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002) of the Foundation.
- To appoint Auditors and fix their remuneration for the year 2002-2003.
- To consider the proposals referred to the Annual General Meeting by the Management Board of BLF.
- To conduct the Election of the Chairman & Management Board Members of the Bangladesh Lions Foundation for the year 2002-2003.
- Any other business with the permission of the Chairman.

All members of the Bangladesh Lions Foundation are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting in time.
 Ln. A. K. Gulam kibriya, FCA
 Secretary General

Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance (PETTRA)
CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR
Pilot Testing Methodologies for Dissemination of Rice Technologies to Resource Poor Farmers

Proposals in the form of a Concept Note are invited for action research sub-projects to identify, develop, and verify extension activities and methodologies that enhance innovation and uptake of new technologies of three types:

- Post harvest handling technologies,
- Management systems innovations, and
- Non-seed input supply and utilization

The completion date for sub-projects financed in response to this Call-for-Concept Notes will be no later than June 30, 2004. Budgets must be modest. It is anticipated that PETTRA will support four to five small sub-projects in each of the three areas of technology diffusion.

Competent and qualified organizations (Government or Non-government or Private Sector) are encouraged to submit concept notes. Concerned agencies must have a track record of commitment to agriculture development for resource-poor farm households. Research will be targeted to specific regions of Bangladesh.

PETTRA is a demand-led, participatory research initiative with the purpose to enhance the productive potential of rice-based farming systems in Bangladesh. It is funded by UK Department for International Development and managed by the International Rice Research Institute in close partnership with the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute. The main goal of the Project is to substantially increase domestic rice production and rural incomes and thereby contribute towards a 50 percent reduction in rural and urban poverty by 2015.

Closing date for submissions is July 25, 2002.
 Specific details may be obtained by contacting:

IRRI-PETTRA
 GPO Box 64, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
 Tel: 8827210, 8817639-40; Fax: 8825341
 E-mail: cnpetra@bol-online.com

care
Job Opportunity
Project Development Officer (Partnering)

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for the position of Project Development Officer (Partnering) for NIRAHPAD MA Project. One position to be based in Sylhet.

The Program Development Officer (Partnering) is primary responsible for management of partnership program with NGOs/ CBOs and other agencies that implementing selective components of NIRAHPAD MA project. S/he is responsible for the selection of appropriate partners as per principles and guideline of the project. S/he will identify the training need and skill deficiency of the partner organizations and will facilitate the process to provide required support on the selected partners. S/he will monitor the implementation of partnership activities and responsible to prepare reports on the progress of NGO partnership program of NIRAHPAD MA project. S/he will very closely coordinate with the MoHFW counterparts at the local level to demonstrate the synergistic effects of NGO partnership program. S/he will maintain networking and represent the project with different NGO forum at the local level such as ADAB, VHSS and other appropriate forums.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION & COMPETENCIES: ♦ Masters in Sociology or any equivalent subject in social science. ♦ 5 years experience in relevant field, specially work to improve the capacity of local NGOs. ♦ Good communication skills, both for verbal and written in English and Bangla. ♦ Be abreast of all the recent project development-related information. ♦ Keeping abreast and acquiring knowledge ♦ Has participated in project planning activities. ♦ Experience in monitoring and evaluation, ability to analyze MIS data ♦ Perform regular studies and field visits, identify strengths and weaknesses, and make recommendations for further project development. ♦ Ensure development and implementation of monitoring tools: Has drafted information for documents and reports (i.e. Multi Year Plan, Annual Implementation Plan, Project Implementation Report). ♦ Has had basic training on TOT and experience in designing and conducting training. ♦ Design and conduct survey on cost effectiveness. Has considerable expertise in designing, conducting, analyzing field surveys, participatory assessments, etc. ♦ Has experience in extension research, training and solving problem at field level. ♦ Willingness to drive motorcycle at the field.
Computer Skill: Good understanding of MS Office (including Word, Excel, Access and Power Point) & knowledge of analytical computer software like EPI-Info/ SPSS, statistical data manipulation/analysis are required.
Compensation: Take home package is Tk. 19,900 per month. Also other admissible benefits as per organizational policy.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with a forwarding, detailed bio-data, a copy of photograph mentioning name of two professional referees, expected gross salary to The Advertiser, Box No: A-2583, C/o. The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka within June 23, 2002.

Internal and External applicants will be treated equally in the whole selection process
WOMEN ARE SPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY
PLEASE MENTION POSITION APPLIED FOR ON TOP OF THE ENVELOPE
ANY PERSUASION WILL BE TREATED AS THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE CANDIDATE