# Steps taken to boost export: PM

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government had taken massive programmes to boost export by providing cash support.

Gazi M Shahjahan (BNP-Chittagong), Khaleda said her government would provide cash support for shrimp and other fish exports in small packs at consumers level at the rate of 15 per cent with effect from July 1 this year and the facility would remain in force for the consecutive three

She said there was no cash

Khaleda said the sector which would get cash support to boost export are leather, goods, agricultural products, fresh fruits, crushed bones, straw of pad "hogla" and bi-cycle and products of small industries.

She said the cash support which is provided at the rate of 10 per cent now for export of leather goods, would be enhanced to 15 per cent from July 1 next for three consecutive years.

UNB adds: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government had taken up a massive plan for turning the afforestation programme into a "social movement".

Steps have been taken to motivate the people for planting trees during the monsoon, she said while replying to a question from M Nurul Islam in the Jatiya Sang-

The government's awareness campaign includes organising tree fairs at the national, divisional, district and upazila levels.

The Prime Minister informed the lawmakers that as part of the national programme, twelve projects of Tk 10.44 crore had been included in the Annual Development Programme for planting trees in 8,180 hectares of land and along 3,735 kilometers of road

# 66 lakh children in risky jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday said 66 lakh children are engaged in different risky jobs in the country out of whom only 17 percent resides in urban areas and the rest 83 percent in villages.

They said the less fortunate people in villages send their children to work only to increase the income of the family. People's awareness and development of human values can contribute to reduce child employment in risky

The speakers were participating in the discussion organised by Bangladesh Integrated Rural Based Association (BIRBA) to observe the first 'World Day Against

#### ADB to conduct study on shipping sector UNB, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will soon send a study mission to Bangladesh for conducting a study on shipping sector and development of ports of the country.

The assurance came when Director of the Manila-based ADB Headquarters in charge of Operations Coordination Division Dr Sultan Hafiz called on Shipping Minister Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain at the latter's office yesterday.

During the meeting they exchanged views on raising the capacity of Chittagong Port, progress of the construction of New Mooring Container Terminal and its operational activities.

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9330376.

Child Labour' at the National Press Club here yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest at the discussion, Syed Marghub Morshed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission said, "We can eliminate child labour only by alleviating poverty".

Dr Hamidul Haque, chairperson of Child Right Forum, said the Child Labour Act of 1970 needs to be amended to reduce the number of child labour in the country.

"Imprisonment of three years or a compensation of TK 500 is not enough punishment for the people who are making huge profit by engaging the children in works with high risk factors at low remuneration", he added.

Khabir Uddin Ahmed, founder of BIRBA, presided over the dis-

cussion. Syed Tosharob Ali, editor of Weekly Robbar, journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Abul Kalam Azad, general secretary and Syed Ayub Ali, programme advisor of BIRBA also spoke on the occa-

#### Brotee to sue DPHE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brotee, a non-government organisation working for the arsenic victims, has decided to take the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) to court to seek steps to close down all arsenic-contaminated deep tubewells in four district towns.

The Legal Action Unit of Brotee decided this in an emergency meeting yesterday following a report published in The Daily Star on June 10 under the headline, 'The deaf DPHE'.

The DPHE has been supplying arsenic-contaminated through pipeline in Chuadanga, Kushtia, Moheshpur (Jhenidah) and Chapainawabganj munici-

"DPHE must take steps to provide the people of the towns with safe water. There is absolutely no justification for such negligence when safe options are available,' said Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive of Brotee.

Brotee's chief legal consultant Dr Tareq M R Chowdhury, an expert in environmental law, will move the case.

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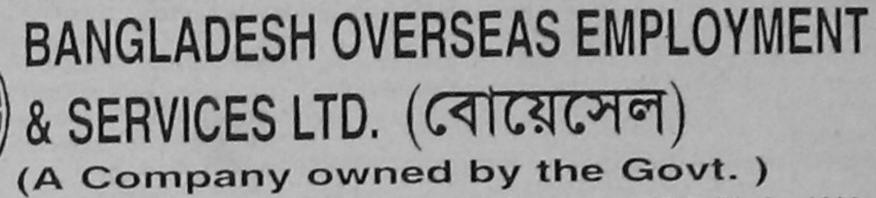
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