

NDI offers training for lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) has offered to provide training to the parliament members, aiming to enhance efficiency of the lawmakers as well as strengthen parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh.

lades James V Oliver called on BNP secretary general and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his Secretariat office yesterday.

Meeting sources said the NDI official expressed satisfaction that the main opposition has joined the Jatiya Sangsad session. He hoped that both the ruling and opposition parties would work

together to further strengthen democratic process.

The NDI Representative stressed the need for making the parliamentary standing committees more effective. He felt that the MPs need training about how the committees function in a democratic country as the parliamentary standing committees play a vital role in strengthening democracy.

Welcoming the NDI proposal, Mannan Bhuiyan said the government would extend all cooperation in arranging such training programme for the MPs.

He urged the NDI to consult with the main opposition about the training programme.

Bhuiyan also asked the official to submit a detail plan of the training programme soon.



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaking at a seminar on 'Forest and Environment', organised by the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, at the National Press Club yesterday.

'Conserve forest to save environment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conservation of forest should be a measure to protect the environment rather than a source of earning revenue, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The total forest area of the country now stands at seven per cent of the total land, which should, ideally, be 25 per cent, they noted.

They expressed concern that measures that are being taken to increase the density of forest might end into mere commercial activity like paper pulp plantation.

However, the speakers also admitted that commercial aspects cannot be overlooked in a poor country like Bangladesh.

"When a person plants a tree, he thinks it as an investment which will bring benefit later," said A B M Enayetullah Hossain, Treasurer of Jahangirnagar University.

The seminar titled 'Forest and Environment' was organised by the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) at the National Press Club.

In his key-note paper, Prof Dwijen Sharma said that mere essay writing and seminar will not help preserve the forest, but massive steps are necessary to that end. "We only destroy the nature, rather than preserving it," he added.

The speakers in the seminar mentioned different reasons which are responsible for the destruction of the forests.

They said people intruding into the forests from the plain land are accelerating the destruction since they are not used to live in that environment.

The lack of efficiency, skill and attitude of the staffs of forest department are also responsible for the destruction of forests. "The staff of the forest department still have the colonial spirits inherent in their blood, which make them insolent," said Professor Sharma in his paper.

Presided over by Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, vice-president of BAPA, the seminar was also addressed by Golam Habib, Philip Goyen, Enam Al Haque and Abu Nasir Khan.

Petrol pump owners threaten indefinite strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers, Distributor's Agents and Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners Association decided to call strike for indefinite period from July 17 if their demands were not met by July 16.

Kachi-Kanchar Mela course

Kachi-Kanchar Mela has introduced a course on learning the language of brain for teenagers and their parents to develop their mental faculties to become honest, sincere and dedicated person for serving humanity, says a press release.

The course is conducted by Joint Director of the Kachi-Kanchar Mela Mohammad Amjad Hossain who is a graduate in science of mind from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The course starts at the central office of the Kachi-Kanchar Mela in the city at 9.00am every Friday.

DU student dies of heart failure

BSS, Dhaka

Utpal Kumar Majumder, a third year honours student of Physics department of Dhaka University, died of heart failure at Suhrawardy Hospital on Sunday night, a university press release said.

He was suffering from heart disease for last few days, the press release said.

His body was taken to Jaganath Hall and Physics department yesterday to have a last glimpse by the teachers and friends.

Later, his body was sent to his village home in Magura for cremation.

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Gyanajyoti murder Buddhist leaders concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

The Buddhist leaders have expressed grave concern as the killers in the sensational Gyanajyoti Bikkhu Murder Case including the prime suspect Azizul Haq of notorious 'Aziz Bahini' are still at large.

They also expressed resentment at the slow pace in the investigation of the murder case.

At a press briefing yesterday, leaders of 'Gyanajyoti Bikkhu Slaughter' the Judgement National

'Movement Committee' regretted that despite different peaceful programmes and movements including rally, mass procession, human chain, mass hunger strike, press conference, march towards parliament and submission of memorandum to the speaker, no real headway has been achieved in arresting the killers.

The committee leaders said they would make an appeal to the President of Bangladesh as a 'last resort of hope and justice' at the end of current month.

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Technical Officer

CARE Bangladesh invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of Technical Officer for SHOW (Self-Help Organization of the Women) of Rural Maintenance Programme (RMP) based at Gazipur.

Major Responsibilities and Task: The Technical Officer-SHOW is responsible for project technical (both financial and operational) integrity, which includes establish system for financial management for the community based women organization (SHOW organization) at the union level, prepare the planning of credit disbursement and fund recovery procedure by the grassroots women organizations and project staff. S/he along with other R&D staff will prepare and implement pilot project activities monitoring tools, financial & operational guidelines for the project beneficiaries at the grassroots levels and project staff. S/he will as well be responsible to assist in conducting research, which includes the baseline survey and feasibility study of SHOW, the preparation of the necessary tools and guidelines for the participants, periodic review of status of credit delivery and repayment by the women organization SHOW.

Required Qualifications : Masters in Finance, Management or relevant commerce background with 5 years experiences preferably with NGOs. At least 2 years of experiences on rural development in the field of development of community based organization, individual/group income/fund generation activities by the rural women and social and human rights aspects of community based organizations.

At least 2 years of experience on community based project along with credit operation and financial system for income generating and fund generating activities for enterprise development in rural development projects is essential. Have clear understanding of the local government structure and the possible intervention to strengthen grassroots women organization as effective rural development organization. Have extensive experience in credit and financial system implementation, especially skills on micro credit operation and have adequate knowledge on existing banking system of the country. Ability to networking and liaison with GO/NGOs on credit and social development issues to enhance the technical aspects of project. Participatory training and action research development skill.

Competencies: Analytical skills, good verbal and written communication skills in English and Bangla, capacity to adept to a changing environment and work under tight deadlines. Have good interpersonal communication skills. Adequate knowledge on computer software programs, including Ms-Excel, MS-Access & MS-Word is required. Compensation take home package is Tk.15,000.00 per month. Also other admissible benefits as per organizational policy. Interested candidates are requested to apply with a forwarding letter mentioning two referees, detailed bio-data, contact telephone # and a copy of photograph to the Advertiser, Box No: A - 3029, C/o. The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Dhaka within July 22, 2002.

(WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY) Internal and external candidates will be treated equally in the whole recruitment process. ANY PERSUASION WILL BE TREATED AS THE DEQUALIFICATION OF THE CANDIDATE. Please Mention The Position Applied For On The Top Of Envelope

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