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## Bapa protests encroachment on Ijtema ground, Turag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday organised a rally at Tongi protesting the encroachment on Bishwa Ijtema ground and the

river Turag.

Speakers at the rally, participated by several hundred people, demanded immediate government steps to stop illegal encroachment on land in the area.

They said if the land grabbers are not stopped immediately, the Ijtema ground would vanish away soon.

The speakers said the local influential people have already grabbed a vast area on both sides of the river turning it into a small canal.

They also demanded massive dredging of the river for maintaining its navigability.

The speakers said the earth filling on flood flow zones by housing companies was one of the main reasons for water logging in Dhaka city during the last floods.

They demanded necessary measures for protecting all rivers, canals and flood flow zones for maintaining ecological balance in the country.

The rally was addressed by Bapa leaders Dr Nuruddin, Feroz Ahmed, Mohammad Kamal and Shamsul Momin.

The protesters also carried banners and posters containing slogans like

'Protect the river Turag', 'Save environment', and 'Return the encroached land to Tablig Jamaat'.

The Ijtema organisers told The Daily Star that the allotment of land around the ground to private companies by the government would create impediments to the holding of such gatherings in the future.

"The government allocated a total of 160 acres of land for Bishwa Ijtema but we are yet to get the possession of whole area," said a leader of Tablig Jamaat, the organiser of the Ijtema.

Although the grabbed land is

situated on the other side of the river, the space is necessary for holding such a big gathering considered second largest congregation of Muslims after the Hajj, he said.

The people who got the plots have expressed their willingness to shift to other places if the government gives them land in other areas, said the tablig leader.

The Tablig Jamaat is also ready to pay necessary money if the government hands over the land to them, he added.

## French trade team to visit port city today

BSS, Chittagong

A 14-member French trade delegation is expected to arrive here today on a day-long visit to see for themselves business the existing infrastructural facilities and business opportunities in the port city.

The delegation led by President of Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry Phillip Vindry has already arrived in Bangladesh and passing a busy schedule in Dhaka.

In Chittagong, the delegation will visit some local and foreign industrial enterprises in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone and BSCIC industrial estate at Sagarika and also attend a number of functions.

The delegation members will exchange views with leading entrepreneurs and business leaders of the port city at a meeting to be organised by Chittagong Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

## PM warns against misuse of resources in edn sector

UNB, Dhaka

Listing some major schemes undertaken for expansion of primary schooling, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday cautioned all concerned against waste, misuse and any other irregularity in spending the hard-earned resources being provided for education.

Identifying lack of resources, opportunity and awareness as the reasons of illiteracy, she said the government is providing wealth and creating opportunity for education of all along with creating awareness to eliminate hurdles on way to progress.

Addressing the closing ceremony of National Primary Education Week-2004 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, The prime minister, also in charge of primary and mass education ministry, said united efforts of all should be further intensified for both quantitative and

qualitative improvement of primary education.

She distributed prizes among 45 primary schoolteachers, students and institutions for their remarkable performances in different fields of schooling at the elementary stage.

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon and Prime Minister's Advisor on Primary and Mass Education, Jahanara Begum also spoke.

Ministers, diplomats, representatives of development partners, primary schoolteachers and students, government officials and academics attended the function.

Listing the government's various pragmatic policies and programmes, the prime minister explained two big steps in the second phase of a programme for development of primary education - a nearly Tk 5,000 crore project and another Tk 400 crore project.

The first project aims to increase

the standard of primary education, expand the opportunity of primary education for all children, increase enrolment and class attendance, ensure completion of primary schooling, and supply textbooks and other educational appliance.

The second project is titled "Reaching out to Schoolchildren". Under this umbrella programme, education centers will be opened across the country in aid of private organisations for imparting education to primary students dropped halfway through the schooling as well as those who are completely deprived of education.

Financial grants would be given to these education centers and students provided with financial supportsome 20 lakh children receiving the education incentives, the prime minister told the audience.

He hoped that enrollment of students in primary schools, attendance in classes would further increase while dropout rate in mid-course of schooling would drop with implementation of these major schemes.

## Accreditation board to be formed

UNB, Dhaka

An accreditation board is being formed to certify quality of products and services in order to upgrade their standards.

The cabinet yesterday approved the formation of a cabinet committee to prepare recommendation for constituting the accreditation board after examining the draft of a new law, the Accreditation Act 2004.

With Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, the cabinet gave the approval at its weekly meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The meeting discussed the draft of the Accreditation Act providing for forming the board that will "certify quality of products, laboratory tests, training in the training institutes and laboratory inspections", said an official handout.

## Political empowerment a must to ensure women's rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without political empowerment, it is quite impossible to ensure the rights of women in the society, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

The three-day workshop titled 'Gender equality: A global challenge' was organised jointly by Khan Foundation and British High Commission at a city restaurant.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Moudud Ahmed attended the workshop as chief guest.

Moudud said there are constitutional laws to remove the gender disparity. Besides, the provision for 45 reserve seats for women in parliament would also encourage women leadership, he added.

The minister laid emphasis on social awareness to remove the disparity adding that women education can play an important role in this regard.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury said economic empowerment as well as the change of attitude and mindset are needed to eliminate gender disparity.

Mandana Hendessi, national

commissioner of UK-based Women National Commission, presented a study result on the condition of women empowerment in global perspective.

She suggested political rights, capacity building programmes at grassroots level, education and a national commission for women for their political empowerment.

Dr Nusrat Amin of Dhaka University said nine laws were enacted in the country to prevent repression on women since 1980, but violence against them is not reduced.

She said seventy percent of the incidents of women repression are committed by their husbands.

Presided over by Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, executive director of Khan Foundation, the inaugural session of the workshop was participated by Katherine B Ward, visiting professor of Millennium University, and Millie Sen-Gupta, head of press and public affairs wing of the British High Commission.

Representatives of different NGOs, civil society members and university teachers attended the workshop.

## Int'l film festival begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

A fortnight-long international film festival will begin in the city tomorrow.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the 2nd International Film Festival Bangladesh as chief guest at Osmani Memorial Auditorium with BFFS Chairman MM Rezaul Karim in the chair.

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) is organising the two-week festival with the assistance of Bangladesh Producers and Distributors Association, Bangladesh Film Exhibitors Association, Bangladesh Chalachitra Grahak Sangstha and International Federation of Film Societies.

The theme of this year's festival is 'Film for everyone'.

A total of 115 films of 41 countries will be screened during the festival.

Organisers of the festival at a press conference at the Dhaka Club yesterday said the exhibition would take place in four phases. In the first phase, from December 2 to December 9, the films will be shown in the Central

Public Library Auditorium, National Museum Auditorium, Russian Cultural Centre and Star Cineplex of Basundhara City.

The second phase will be on screen from December 3 to December 9 at 20 cinema halls in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

The third phase will start from December 4 and continue till December 8 at Shishu Academy while the last phase will begin on December 10 in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal. The carnival will continue till December 16.

Festival Director Golam Rabbani Biplob read out the written statement at the press conference. Chairman of the BFFA MM Rezaul Karim, Muhammad Jahangir, Ashraf Uddin Uzzal, Masud Parvez and Habibur Rahman were present.

There are four prizes to be given under four categories. The categories are International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS), Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC), Lifetime Achievement Award and Audience Award.



Golam Rabbani Biplob, the festival director of the 2nd International Film Festival Bangladesh, reads out the written statement at the press conference at Dhaka Club yesterday. On his left are MM Rezaul Karim, Habibur Rahman, Saiful Islam Chowdhury and Mohammed Jahangir.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fifth death anniversary of Syed Mahbubul Haque (Benu Mia) will be observed today.

A valiant freedom fighter and leading businessman in Magura, Mahbubul Haque died of colon cancer on November 30, 1999 at the age of 72.

A doa followed by feeding of the destitute will be offered after Ast prayers at his home in Magura.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the doa and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

## Begum Anwara Khatun

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Begum Anwara Khatun, member of the erstwhile Bengal Legislative Assembly and

East Pakistan Legislative Assembly, says a press release.

Anwara, one of the founders of Awami League, was close associate of Husain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

### East West University

TENDER FOR ENLISTMENT OF TRADING FIRMS / SUPPLIERS

East West University invites application from bonafide trading firms/suppliers of the following items and service providers for enlistment:

- i) Computer, Printer and computer accessories.
- ii) Air conditioner.
- iii) All types of Electrical goods/materials.
- iv) UPS/IPS
- v) Aluminium and glass partition.
- vi) False ceiling/vertical blind.
- vii) Wooden chair, table and other furniture.
- viii) Steel chair, table, almirah, cabinet and other furniture.
- ix) Plastic furniture.
- x) Chemicals, reagents and other pharmacy related items.
- xi) Digital, electronic and tele communication lab equipments.
- xii) Printing press.
- xiii) All types of stationery and cleaning materials.
- xiv) Motor workshop.
- xv) Photocopy machine.
- xvi) Multimedia, OHP.
- xvii) All types of fan.
- xviii) Wall curtain.

The intending firms/suppliers/ service providers will submit their proposal alongwith the following particulars:

- i) Company profile.
- ii) Trade licence
- iii) Tax Identification Number (TIN) alongwith latest tax payment certificate.
- iv) VAT registration number.
- v) Availability of after sales service, if applicable.
- vi) Prior experience of work/supply/services in the related field with list of clients.
- vii) Dealership/Distributorship certificate, if applicable.
- viii) Certificate from BSTI, if available.

Applications in the firms/companies' letter head for enlistment alongwith the above documents must reach us on or before **29 December 2004** in a sealed envelop mentioning the category or items on the envelop.

**Registrar**  
East West University  
43 Mohakhali C/A  
Dhaka-1212



Mohammad Shahta Zarab, Ambassador of State of Palestine, speaks at a symposium in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in the city yesterday.

## Tributes paid to Arafat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday paid tributes to the memory of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for his outstanding leadership.

They said the stature of Arafat's leadership could only be matched with that of Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

The memorial discussion was organised by Jatiya Oikya Mancha at the Liberation War Museum in the city with its president Dr Kamal Hossain in the chair.

Dr Kamal said there was a deep-rooted affinity between Arafat's struggle for an independent Palestine and the War of Liberation of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause at the Islamic Conference in Lahore in 1974, he added.

"Arafat's leadership had a global stature," said journalist Ataus

Samad adding, "In the wake of his death, the Western media appeared hesitant in showing due respect to him."

"Inspired by the ideals of Arab nationalism, Arafat dreamt of an independent and secular Palestinian state," said Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, general secretary of Gonoforum.

Former student leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu said Arafat was one of the few world leaders who became an ideal and source of inspiration for the freedom fighters of Bangladesh.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, former foreign secretary Abul Hasan, Organising Secretary of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Mahi B Chowdhury, Oikya Mancha leader Ajoy Roy and President of Bangladeshzer Samajtantrik Dal Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan also spoke.

**Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies**  
E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

### Job Opportunity

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi nationals for filling up the following post:

Sl. No.	Name of post	Number of post	Qualifications	Pay/Salary
1.	Network Engineer	1 (one)	The candidate should have at least 2 years of practical experience in installation and configuration of LAN systems, Linux (TCP/IP); familiarity with backup strategies and networking over TCP/IP. A university degree in computer science or a related field is desirable. The candidate should be responsible for providing support to the BIDS Local Area Network including support for connected equipment and peripherals for BIDS LAN. The support should extend to provision of services for electronic mail, ftp server and web server (BIDS server); maintain and trouble shoot computers, printers, UPSs and accessories; Internet related equipment and internal network equipment like, routers, servers, switches and network hubs.	NPS '97 Tk. 9500-260-12100/- plus other allowances as admissible under the rules.

Application with complete bio-data giving details of division/class obtained and year of passing from SSC onwards along with two passport size photographs and attested copies of mark sheets and academic certificates and other experience certificates addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 should reach by December 30, 2004 at the latest. Candidate already in service should apply through proper channel. Those who applied earlier in response to our advertisement in the notice board, need not apply. The authority reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason.

**Syed Nadeem Ahmed**  
Secretary  
BIDS

GD-745

### Export Promotion Fund

For Handicraft Manufacturers/Exporters

Export Promotion Bureau

Dhaka

This is for information of all handicrafts manufacturers/exporters that with a view to increasing export of handicrafts from Bangladesh, Government is disbursing "Working Capital" to handicrafts manufacturers/exporters from Export Promotion Fund (EPF) of Export Promotion Bureau. Each genuine handicrafts manufacturer/exporter is eligible to apply to Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka for Tk. 5.00 (five) lac maximum on fulfilment of the following prerequisites/requirements:

1. The owner/entrepreneur of the firm shall have at least 5 years professional experience.
2. The applicant firm shall have requisite manpower, office, showroom and facility for storage of goods.
3. The firm must have specific export order from foreign importer during submission of application.
4. Any person or firm would be disqualified for the grant of loan if, declared loan defaulter by the Credit Information Bureau (CIB) of Bangladesh Bank.
5. Interested exporters may collect application form for working capital in handicraft sector from Export Promotion Fund (EPF) on payment of Taka 100/= (non-refundable) from Janata Bank, Head Office, 110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
6. Application form alongwith requisite papers/documents duly filled in has to be submitted to the Commodity Development Division, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
7. Those who are members of Banglacrft may apply through Banglacrft.

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