

# 5.7 lakh families get VGF cards in five northern districts

Programme started earlier this year due to flood, high price of rice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

About 5.7 lakh hardcore poor families in five munga prone districts of greater Rangpur have been brought under VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme.

Distribution of free rice has been started in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts under the supervision of army to ensure food security as employment is scarce in the areas now, officials said.

Each of the 5.70 lakh VGF cardholder gets 15 kilograms of rice per month. The program will continue for five months till May.

Sources at district relief offices

said usually such free rice is distributed in munga (a pre-harvest period when employment for day labourers is scarce) period during August-December.

This year, the program has been started earlier (from January) to benefit the poor because of loss of crops in floods and high prices of food, they said.

The VGF programme in the five districts will need 8,550 tonnes of rice a month.

In Rangpur agriculture region comprising of eight northern districts, Amon yield this year was 2,08,432 tonnes less than that of last year. It was 22,01,787 tonnes this year against last year's 24,10,219 tonnes, agriculture

officials said. This deficit in the region and other areas of the country pushed rice prices higher.

Sources said, 1.70 lakh VGF cards have been distributed in Rangpur, 1.40 lakh in Gaibandha, one lakh in Nilphamari, One lakh in Kurigram and 70,000 in Lalmonirhat.

To make the program successful, upazila administrations arranged view exchange meetings with Union Parishad chairmen and members.

Meanwhile, chairman of Mithapukur Union Parishad and a UP member of Nilphamari Sadar upazila have been arrested recently for alleged irregularities in distribution of VGF rice.

## Pahela Falgun in districts



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

FLOWING WITH RHYTHM OF NATURE: Fine arts students of Rajshahi University getting adorned with flowers to celebrate Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring season according to Bangla calendar, left, artistes sing at Basant Utsab (spring festival) arranged at DC Hill in port city Chittagong yesterday.

## Steps taken to save Hakaluki fowls from bird flu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The district administration has taken steps to prevent spread of Avian Influenza (bird flu) among migratory birds in Hakaluki haor.

Samples taken from different species of birds in the Haor have been tested but no germ of the disease was found, sources said.

Entry of fowls into the district from other districts have been restricted and spraying of anti-septic medicines on vehicles carrying fowls and eggs within the district has been made compulsory.

The measures were taken after bird flu virus was detected in a poultry farm at Kulaura last month.

There are over one lakh migratory birds in Hakaluki haor now, sources at the office of the Department of Environment (DoE) at Kulaura said.

The DoE is also holding community meetings and distributing leaflets to create awareness about bird flu. It has put up banners at all entrances to the haor.

## 'Protect culture of CHT ethnic people'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Speakers in a workshop yesterday made 17-point suggestions to the government to protect culture and heritages of 11 ethnic communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

They suggested establishment of a tribal cultural institute, appointment of indigenous language teacher in every primary school in CHT and broadcasting programmes on indigenous culture and heritage.

Their suggestions also include one more chapter based on indigenous culture in text books at primary and junior levels, introducing teachers' training on indigenous languages at Rangamati PTL, and setting up a museum to protect culture and heritages of 11 ethnic communities in CHT.

They emphasised primary education in students' mother languages.

Speakers said this in a daylong workshop titled "Adhivashi Sangskriti Sangrakhaney" (Preservation of Indigenous Culture) organised by local NGO Zabarang Kalyan Samity held at Parjatan Motel in Khagrachhari hill district yesterday.

Speakers also made several suggestions for the civil society, media men and NGOs to work for protection of indigenous customs, tradition and cultural heritages by their own role and contribution.

The suggestions came from a month-long research on the lifestyle including food habits, sports, marriage system, cultivation, dresses, traditional function and residence of three indigenous communities -- Chakma, Marma and Tripura.

Local NGOs (Rurua Lummyia Thethong, Khagrachhari Mohila Kalyan Samity, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha and Zabarang Kalyan Samity helped to conduct the research.

## Principal sued for 'abusing' female teacher, taking bribe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A case was filed yesterday with Kalaroa police station against local BNP leader and Boalia Muktiyoddha College principal Farooque Hossain allegedly for realising Tk 1.5 lakh from a female teacher to include her name in monthly pay order (MPO).

In the case, it was also alleged that the principal tried to sexually abuse the female teacher.

The case was filed by alleged victim Rehana Sultana's brother Rejaul Haque of Kaddanga village in Kalaroa upazila.

The plaintiff complained that his sister joined the college as a lecturer in Bangla department on July 26, 2003. The principal realised Tk 1.50,000 from her on the plea of including her name in the MPO, which is required to get the portion of government's contribution to the salary.

On contact, Farooque Hossain refuted the allegation and said it is a conspiracy against him hatched by vested quarters, failing to get the salary. Officer-in-charge of Kalaroa police station Nur Islam said they are probing the allegations.

## Jute goods fair opens in Sylhet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A 5-day fair of jute goods will begin today at the Zila Parishad auditorium in the city.

Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC) of the ministry of textile and jute has organised the fair under its 'Small scale entrepreneurship development in diversified jute products' project.

Foreign Affairs Advisor Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury will inaugurate the fair. Dr. ABM Abdullah, executive director of JDPC, said at a press conference at the Zila Parishad auditorium yesterday.

## 3 kg opium seeds, firearm recovered in Thanchi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Joint forces seized 3 kilograms of opium seeds, gun powder and a rifle with bullets in a drive in Thanchi upazila in the district yesterday.

Source said joint teams of army and BDR have launched a drive in remote hills near the border to stop opium cultivation.



PHOTO: STAR

A big rally of teachers and students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology on the campus yesterday marking its 17th founding day.

## Citizens' participation stressed for good local governance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday said transparency, accountability and citizens' participation in different development works and in formulation of budgets have become essential for good local governance as well as poverty reduction.

Self-reliance is needed to strengthen local government and this becomes possible when citizens are sure of good returns, they

said at the meeting for sharing achievement of Sharique, a local governance programme with Inter Cooperation of Care Bangladesh at Nanking Darbar Hall.

Rajshahi Divisional Local Government Director Azhar Ali attended the meeting as chief guest with Sharique regional coordinator Tirtha Sarathi Sikdar in the chair.

Sharique programme is helping union parishads manage public affairs in a more effective said several union parishad chairmen and mem-

bers in a special discussion arranged for sharing their experiences.

Satyendra Kumar Sarker, additional deputy commissioner (Education), Mahabubul Islam Khan, governance coordinator of Care, Prasanta Tripathy, national coordinator of Sharique, also spoke.

Funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Sharique programme is supporting local government functioning in 100 unions in Rajshahi and Sunamganj districts.

## LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

Matter No. 17 of 2008

AN application under section 12 read with section 13 of companies Act, 1994 AND  
Anf Expo Trade Limited, represented by its Managing Director, Md. Abdus Shahid, Room # 8, Level # 10, Eastern Commercial Complex, 73, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. ...Petitioner.

...VERSUS...

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms Sadharan Bima Sadhan (17th Floor), 24-25, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Police Station-Motijheel, Dhaka-1000. ...Respondent

Notice is hereby given that, an application under Section 12 read with section 13 of the companies Act, 1994 was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner to add new sub-clause in objects clause of the Memorandum of Association of the Company under the name and style of Anf Expo Trade Limited. This petition has been admitted by Hon'ble Company Judge on 29.1.2008 and fixed for hearing on 23.03.2008. Any person interested in the said application may appear on the date fixed for hearing either himself or through his Advocate.

A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of the prescribed fees

(Mohammad Zafor Ali Khan)

Advocate

11/1/A, Kabi Jasim Uddin Road, North Komolapur, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association forms a human chain near central Shahid Minar in Sylhet yesterday as part of their campaign for protection of wildlife including the monkeys that frequent the shrine of Hazrat Chanshi Pir.

## Job Opportunity



Be a part of it.

Plan is an international humanitarian, child-centered development organization with no religious, political or government affiliations working in 66 countries across the globe with its headquarters in the UK. Plan works with over one million children, their families and communities in 49 developing countries around the world, implementing projects at the grass root and national level in health, education, water and sanitation, income generation and cross cultural communication. Plan is registered with United Nations following recognition in 1989 and has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UNICEF. Plan Bangladesh is now scaling up its country program in Bangladesh and we are inviting applications from the interested candidates for the following positions to support our growth:

### Program Monitoring Specialist - (Location: Dhaka)

Supports program teams for program operational planning, program review and monitoring, action research, program reporting and consolidating learning and sharing the same across the organization. Key activities include supporting Program Support Manager for reflecting planned activities and associated resource allocation in the 'program outline'; orienting M&E Coordinators in the field for implementing participatory M&E frameworks in the field in line with the organizational learning system (OLS) and program approach; developing mechanisms for OLS and sharing learning for the benefit of program design; supporting Organizational Development Unit in developing capacity for the partners on participatory M&E aspects; identifying action research areas and conducting action researches for better program understanding; and preparing various reports. Applicant should have at least five years' experience with any national/international organizations in program monitoring preferably on the participatory approach with action research skills. Master's degree in MIS/Statistics with professional skills in quantitative analysis will be preferable. Communication skills in English, ability to produce analytical reports for the senior management and willingness to spend 40-50% time in the field are essential. Salary: Tk. 48,000 - 57,000 per month consolidated. Employment Category: Contractual with yearly renewal opportunity.

### Program Coordinator, Family Economic Security - (Location: Jaldhaka, Nilphamari)

Works with Plan technical team, program unit, partner organizations and community in designing and implementing Family Economic Security (FES) programs at program unit level. Key activities include implementing and monitoring the designed FES programs through partner organizations; building awareness of community and partners on FES programs/interventions; providing technical support for research dissemination, quality monitoring and capacity building at Program Unit level; ensuring coordination among Program Unit, community and Plan's technical team. Applicant should be Graduate in any discipline of Social/Business/Agricultural studies with at least four years' experience in microfinance and/or livelihood programs. A clear understanding of poor peoples' livelihood, risk and vulnerability are essential; Ability to facilitate meeting, training and orientation sessions and to use participatory tools and techniques are the key requirements. Applicant must be willing to drive motorbike in the field and possess valid motorbike driving license. Salary: Tk. 28,000 - 33,000 gross per month. Employment Category: Regular.

### Program Coordinator - Health (Location: Dhaka/ Jaldhaka, Nilphamari)

Works with Plan technical team, program unit, partner organizations and community in designing Community Health program at program unit level. Key activities include providing technical support to implement and monitor health programs at program unit; supporting capacity building of partner organizations and community in terms of resource mobilization and use; establishing and maintaining health network at local level; and producing quality reports for the management. Applicant should have MPH/MBBS/MSS plus at least four years' experience in primary and preventive health care program with a level of proficiency in designing, implementing and monitoring health program and building capacity for the partners. Experience in WATSAN and nutrition program would be considered an added advantage. Applicants with MBBS will be given preference. Applicant must be able to spend 40-50% time in the field and willing to drive motorbike in the field. Salary: Tk. 28,000 - 33,000 gross per month. Higher salary may be offered to the deserving candidate. Employment Category: Regular.

### Project Coordinator - Adolescent Reproductive Health (Location: Dhaka)

Works with Project Manager for developing program support plan for Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) project, ensuring required support (technical, gender, capacity building and M&E) for quality implementation of ARH Project. The key activities include coordinating project activities with seven implementing partners; networking with relevant government health personnel both at local and national level in relation to the ARH Project implementation; maintaining quality of the program and training and carrying out project documentation and producing quality reports for the management. Applicant should have MPH/MBBS plus at least four years' experience in implementing ARH issues with any national or international organizations. Must have experience of working with partners and be willing to spend 40-50% time in the field. Salary: Tk. 30,000 - 35,000 consolidated per month. Employment Category: Contractual with yearly renewal opportunity for five years.

### Upazila Coordinator, WATSAN - (Location: Chirirbandar, Dinajpur)

Provides inputs and supports to Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) technical team, program unit, partner organizations and community in designing WES program at program unit level. Key activities include implementing and monitoring WES programs at program unit; providing supports for capacity building of partners, Local Govt. Institutions and community in terms of resource mobilization. Applicant should be Graduate in Social Science/ Diploma in Civil Engineering with specialization on WATSAN; Minimum four years' field experience in Water and Environmental Sanitation is required. Communication skills in English and computer literacy would be a plus point. Must be willing to drive motorbike in the field and possess valid motor bike driving license. Salary: Tk. 34,000 - 38,000 per month consolidated. Employment Category: Contractual with yearly renewal opportunity.

### Area Coordinator - (For creating a panel to meet future requirements. Location: at upazila level of the northern districts)

Coordinates programs and sponsorship activities of assigned Union/Zone and works closely with the poorer families and children of the disadvantaged communities, local partners and stakeholders; acts as a facilitator, mobilizer and catalyst. Key activities include facilitating participatory community development process; building capacity of the community based organizations and mobilizing resources to the community for implementing various projects and program interventions. Applicants should have Masters in any discipline preferably in Social Sciences with at least four years' experience in any NGO/INGO involved in community capacity building. Basic knowledge on logical framework, rights based program approaches, child rights and PRA tools are the key requirements for this position. Willingness to work with the disadvantaged children and adult in the community, and ability to learn from the field experience are essential. Experience of working with local government would be an advantage. Communication skills in English, computer literacy, report writing and presentation skills are required. Must be willing to drive motorbike in the field and possess valid motorbike driving license. Salary: Tk. 23,000 - 28,000 gross per month. Employment Category: Regular.

### Deputy Area Coordinator - (For creating a panel to meet future requirements. Location: at upazila level of the northern districts)

Assists in coordinating programs and sponsorship activities of assigned villages/wards under a Union/Zone; works closely with the poorer families and children of the disadvantaged communities, local partners and stakeholders; acts as a facilitator, mobilizer and catalyst; and learn and facilitate participatory community development process. Applicants should be university graduate, preferably in any discipline of Social Studies, with one year working experience in any NGO/INGO involved in community capacity building. Knowledge on PRA tools is preferable but not mandatory. Willingness to work with the disadvantaged children and adult in the community and ability to learn from the field experience are essential. Communication skills in English with computer literacy are required. Must be willing to drive motorbike in the field. Salary: Tk. 16,000 - 20,000 gross per month. Employment Category: Regular.

Applicants meeting the requirements of positions are requested to send applications along with CV, having contact numbers, e-mail address and names of two referees (one should be the present employer, if any) and a recent photograph to: Human Resource Manager, Plan Bangladesh, House - CWN (B) 14, Road - 35, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh. Please quote the job title on the envelope. Any form of persuasion in the selection process will automatically disqualify the candidacy.

The closing date for applications is 29 February 2008

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified

As an international child-centered development organization, committed to the well-being of children and to supporting the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Plan does not tolerate child abuse.

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