

Corporate champions get accolades

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A spectacular dance and a dashing display of light and sound heralded the beginning of the gala event at the ballroom of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

The audience, who included mainly corporate luminaries, was waiting for the announcement of Bangladesh Business Awards 2007. The long-awaited moment came after the congratulatory remarks by The Daily Star and DHL Express authorities.

Suspense rose high amid pin-

drop silence when the anchor of the gala function invited Zinet Fatema, winner of 2006 Outstanding Woman in Business, to declare the name of the Enterprise of the Year 2007.

She broke the silence announcing the name of Bengal Plastic Industries, the country's one of the biggest and oldest plastic goods manufacturing factories.

Morshed Alam, chairman of Bengal Plastic, received the award on behalf of his company.

Then came the turn of Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2007 award. Tax Ombudsman

Khairuzzaman Chowdhury announced the name of Nilufar Farooq, managing partner of Ikebana, with guests at the event clapping.

The big one was yet to be announced. With guests guessing and whispering, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Annisul Huq was invited to announce the name of the Business Person of the Year 2007.

Amid thunderous applause, the spotlight fell on KM Rezaul Hasanat, chairman and managing director of Viyellatex Group.

Later, Commerce and

Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman gave away the crests to the three winners.

The night of April 25, 2008 belonged entirely to two outstanding personalities and a company who were awarded for their individual and organisational successes, vision and enterprising spirit that contributed immensely to the corporate Bangladesh.

The Daily Star and the DHL introduced the prestigious Bangladesh Business Awards with a view to bringing global corporate standards to Bangladesh. This was the eighth year of the awards.

Winners of Bangladesh Business Awards '07

Business Person of the Year

KM Rezaul Hasanat, chairman and managing director of Viyellatex Group, received the 'Business Person of the Year 2007' award.

Hasanat began his entrepreneurial journey in 1996 when he joined Youngones Fashions Ltd, a small garment factory, as the chief executive officer. The company offered him 10 percent stake as a working partner.

At one stage, other partners of the company decided to quit the business. But Hasanat's business instincts inspired him to take a risk. He approached banks and bought the rest 90 percent stakes.

He shifted the factory to Tongi from Tejgaon to start production.

He did not look back. The Viyellatex Group started emerging.

At present, Hasanat's enterprises include Youngones Fashions Ltd, Viyellatex Ltd, Interfab Shirt Manufacturing Ltd, Fashion Plastic and Packaging Ltd and Gothic Design Ltd.

The group's annual turnover was around \$108 million (Tk 745.2 crore approximately) in 2006-07 fiscal year.

Viyellatex Group sponsors scholarship programmes to some primary schools in Naogaon. The group has purchased a piece of land at Tongi to set up an 80-bed hospital.

Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year
Nilufar Farooq, managing partner of Ikebana, was awarded 'Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2007'.

Nilufar started her business in 1992 offering decoration services for important functions. She and her two friends invested Tk 2.10 lakh each to start a business on a small scale at Dhanmondi in the city.

The breakthrough came in 1993 when Dhaka hosted the 7th Saarc Summit. Ikebana was selected for decoration at Sheraton Hotel where the heads of the states and governments were staying during the summit.

Ikebana has grown further. It has moved to a 3,080-sq-foot office at Banani, which offers floral deco-



Nilufar Farooq, managing partner of Ikebana

ration, landscaping and roof gardening services.

The turnover of Ikebana, which has a workforce of 60 people, reached Tk 87 lakh in 2006-07.

Enterprise of the Year
Bengal Plastic Industries Ltd, one of the country's biggest and oldest plastic goods manufacturing factories, was awarded 'Enterprise of the Year 2007'.

The company began its journey in 1969 in old Dhaka when the company started manufacturing plastic spare parts for jute mills.

Inspired with the initial success, the company installed automatic machines in 1978 and expanded production base, manufacturing household utensils such as plastic

jug and plate.

In 1991, Bengal Plastic Industries started to manufacture accessories especially plastic hangers for exportable garment industry. It got a boost in business after winning contracts to supply crates to Coca Cola and Pepsi in 1992.

The company's turnover hit \$35 million (Tk 245 crore approximately) in 2007. It has a manpower base of around 2,000 people.

The company won the national export trophy twice in 1997-98 and 2000-01.

Morshed Alam, chairman of Bengal Plastic Industries, received the award on behalf of the company.



Morshed Alam, chairman of Bengal Plastic Industries

OMS ends April 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The open market sale (OMS) programme of food directorate will be ended on April 30 across the country while rice sale at the OMS outlets reduces today.

An OMS dealer is going to sell rice 1020 kilograms instead of 1500 kg from today in the city.

Director General of Food Directorate Pias Costa told The Daily Star yesterday that, "The OMS programme across the country will be ended on April 30 as per previously scheduled decision of the government."

When asked about extension of the programme, he said no decision is yet to make regarding the time extension.

The time of OMS programme may be extended for 15 days, said other sources.

Currently, a total of 6,800 OMS dealers across the country are selling rice three days a week. Of them, 687 OMS dealers sell rice in Dhaka City Corporation area.

The government launched its countrywide OMS programme on January 9 at the rate of Tk 25 per kg in the wake of unprecedented hike of rice prices.

In addition, the direct sale of food directorate in the city and elsewhere in the country will also be ended on April 30. The directorate reduces the numbers of trucks to 40 from 60 in the city.

Meantime, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) will continue its fair price markets in the city and elsewhere in the country.

BDR Commander in Dhaka Col Mujibul Haq said they will continue their sale in 75 fair price outlets in the city.

Gold medal to 4 personalities

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Mahanam Foundation for Peace and Solidarity of the Department of World Religions of Dhaka University (DU) will award gold medal to four noted personalities at Teacher-Student Centre of the university at 4:00pm today for their contribution to promoting human values, says a press release.

They are Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of English department of DU, Prof Joseph T O'Connell of Toronto University, Canada, Shrimat Swami Asharananda, head of Ramakrishna Mission, Dhaka and Suhashini Das.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Chairperson Ayesha Khanam speaks at a press conference on National Women Development Policy 2008 at Begum Sufia Kamal Bhaban at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday. On her right are Dr Hamida Hossain and Shahna Sumi. Samajik Protirodh Committee and Nagarik Samaj organised the programme. (Story on Page-1)

WORLD OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SECURITY DAY ON APRIL 28 1768 workers die at work in '07

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1768 workers were killed and another 1782 workers received serious injuries in their workplaces in the country in 2007, said the speakers at a press conference yesterday.

They said over 12 percent of the total population are engaged in unhygienic and unsafe work which is an obstacle to creating skilled and energetic workforce.

The press conference was organised jointly by Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB), Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (BOSHEF), Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) and Pariprekshit at Dhaka Reporters Unity to mark the World Occupational Health and Security Day to be observed on April 28.

This year the theme of the day is 'Secured and hygienic workplace needed for healthy life, production and development'.

Addressing the press conference,

Asgar Ali Sabri of AAB said to build a developed and prosperous country skilled and industrious workforce is a must, and to make a skilled and industrious workforce hygienic, secured and well-organised workplace is also necessary.

He said according to International Labour Organisation (ILO), about two million workers across the world lose their lives and over 1.2 million workers receive injuries every year due to unsafe, unhygienic and unsuitable work and environment.

Loss of limbs is a normal picture in the occupational sector due to lack of healthcare service and ventilation, adequate maternal and other leave, child labour and risky jobs, he said.

Kabir Hossain of BILS said labour sector is still very vulnerable and the notion of occupational health and security is yet to be flourished.

He said government's willingness, positive attitude of the owners and awareness of the workers can change the present scenario of workplaces.

The organisations have chalked out a four-day programme to observe the day.

Milon Bikash Paul of PSTC, AR Chowdhury Ripon of BOSHEF and Borhan Kabir of Pariprekshit also spoke.

Painting contest for children of pavement dwellers

BSS, Dhaka

A different type of painting competition for children of pavement dwellers was held at the Institute of Fine Arts yesterday.

Concern Worldwide, an international humanitarian organisation, organised the competition to encourage the children of pavement dwellers.

Nearly 100 children of pavement dwellers participated in the programme on the theme 'Moner Anandey Aki' (Drawing with Joy).

Selected paintings from the event will be put on display later.

With zem Prepaid, I decide my call rate

zem
prepaid



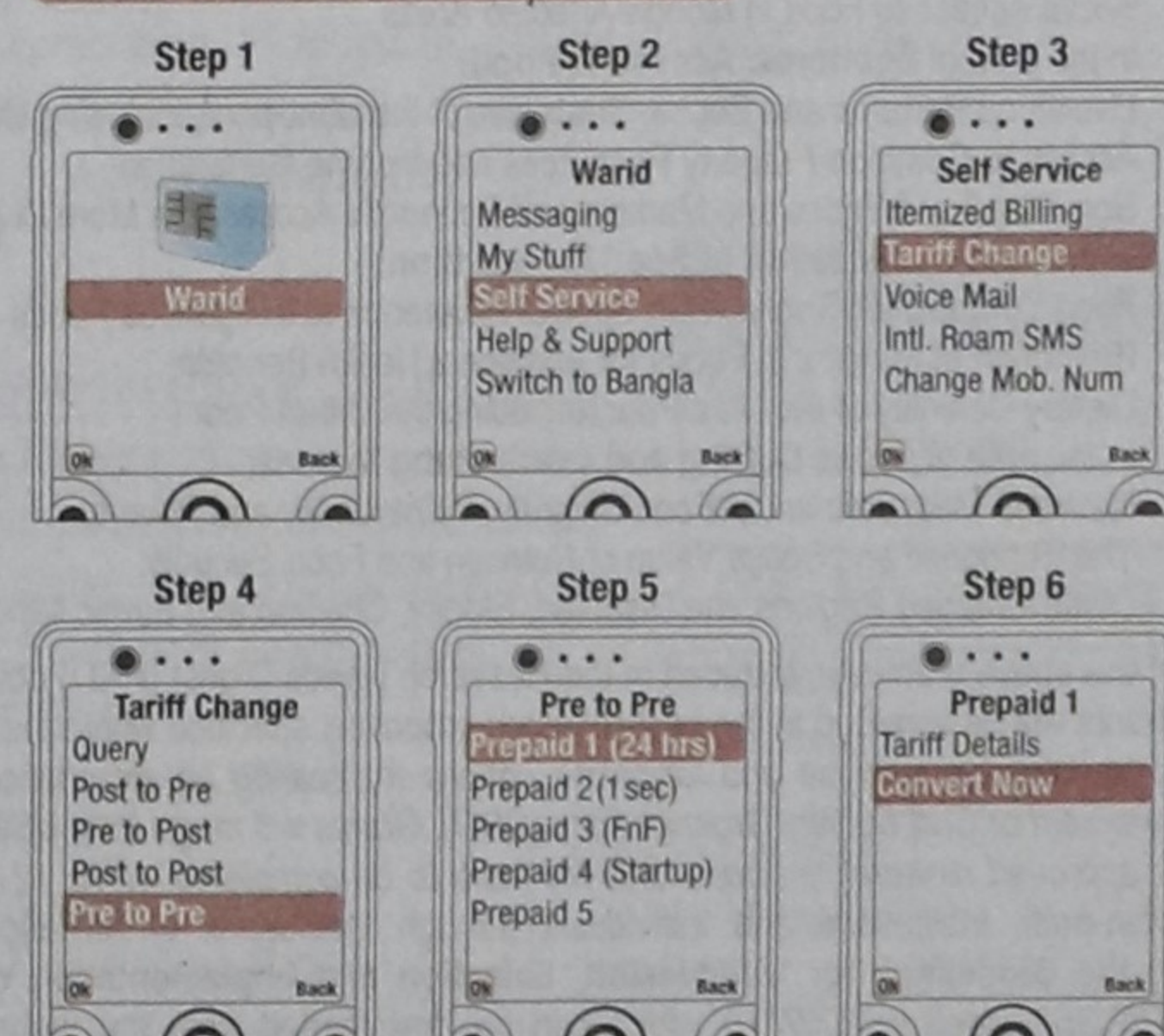
Lowest Call Rate

89

Paisa/min

Any
Time
Any
Mobile

To switch ..



Terms and Conditions:

- This tariff is only available in zem 24 hrs feature
- All new and existing zem prepaid subscribers can enjoy this feature by following the above-mentioned switching process
- You can also switch between zem 1 Sec and zem FnF anytime
- Please dial 786 for other amazing features