

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world.

This year the theme of the day is 'Together for Humanity'.

To mark the day Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has taken up elaborate programmes in the city.

The programmes will start by hoisting national and Red Crescent flags at the national headquarters of Red Crescent Society at 7:00am.

It will be followed by a colourful rally to be participated by members, officials, employees and volunteers of the society.

Besides, the society will arrange blood donation, discussion, fund and member collection, prize distribution and cultural function.

At a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, Chairman of Bangladesh Red

Crescent Society Prof Dr Mohammad Abdur Rab urged people to assist the society in carrying out its humanitarian activities.

He also spoke of help and assistance that the society extended for flood and Sidi victims last year.

This year 'Bangladesh Red Crescent Award' will be given to Joydev Dutta for his outstanding performance in the recovery of Sidi-hit people in Barguna, he added.

Vice-chairman of Red Crescent Society Prof Dr Gazi Abdul Huq, Treasurer SM Munir Lablu, Secretary General M Shafiqul Alam and Head of Delegation of International Federation of Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) were also present at the press conference.

The day marks the birthday of Jean Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Pak NDU team meets defence secretary

UNB, Dhaka

The delegation of Pakistan National Defence University (NDU) called on Defence Secretary Kamrul Hasan at the Ministry of Defence in the city yesterday.

Joint Secretary (W&D) of the Defence Ministry Brig Gen Shah M Sultan Uddin Iqbal, Bir Protik and Joint Secretary (General) M Ebadot Ali were present on the occasion.

The team also visited National Defence College (NDC) and Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in the city.

The NDU delegation along with Commandant of the NDC Lt Gen Abu Tayeb Muhammad Zahirul Alam witnessed the proceedings of a panel discussion at NDC at Mirpur Cantonment.

Earlier, the delegation called on DSCSC Commandant Maj Gen Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan. The delegation was appraised of the college during the meeting.

Disaster management act soon

BSS, Dhaka

Law Secretary Habibul Awal yesterday said that the government is formulating a disaster management act with a view to giving the country's disaster management programme an institutional shape.

He said a draft of the proposed act is now at the final stage while the views have already been taken from

all stakeholders including the Ministry of Law, said a press release.

The law secretary was addressing the 2nd day of a three-day workshop, organised by Disaster Management Bureau at the Relief Bhawan.

The Disaster Management Bureau is holding the workshop on disaster as part of fostering skills of the officials on effective disaster management.

Vitamin 'A' capsule campaign Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to providing vitamin 'A' capsules to 1.90 crore children, the vitamin 'A' capsule campaign will be held on Saturday across the country.

Children aged between one and five will be administered with vitamin 'A' capsules in 1.20 lakh permanent and 20,000 mobile centres. Deworming tablets will also be administered to the 1.70 crore children aged between two and five.

The campaign will continue from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Further immunisation centers will be set up at bus stands, rail stations, airports, launch terminals and toll centres at the bridges.

The immunisation centres will be marked with 'Moni' flag and Vitamin 'A' plus campaign posters. Along with providing immunisation, the health and nutrition activists will disseminate emergency health messages for mothers and children at the centres.

Lukewarm response to offshore bidding

FROM PAGE 1

The oil companies submitted their bids until 1:00pm yesterday and the bids were opened after 2:00pm in the presence of representatives of the oil companies, officials and journalists at the Petrobangla seminar room.

"Twenty-five companies had purchased our promotional package and seven companies submitted bids. We are satisfied with the outcome," said Petrobangla Director (PSC) M Muktar Ali after the offers were opened.

Australian oil company Santos International appeared as the top bidder, making a total investment proposal of \$852 million under three Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for six blocks. Santos has joint venture partnership with British company Cairn and Chinese-US joint venture Longwoods Resources and

Shanghai Zhongman Petroleum (LR&SZP).

Santos faced stiff competition from US oil company ConocoPhillips that submitted offers in common blocks. ConocoPhillips offered to invest \$442.63 million under four PSCs for eight blocks.

Chinese-US joint venture Longwoods Resources Ltd, in joint venture with LR & SZP, offered to invest \$170 million in three blocks.

Cypriot oil company Contrack Services offered to invest \$61 million in two blocks under one PSC, Irish company Tullow Bangladesh offered \$50 million in one shallow water block and Chinese oil giant CNOOC offered \$115 million in one shallow water blocks.

A seventh company, Korea National Oil Corporation of South Korea, submitted a bid for a block along with a bank guarantee proposal of \$2.5 million without making any investment commitment. It stated that it will conduct 1,000km of seismic survey but did not mention any expenditure.

Participants at the bid opening session were apparently surprised that oil giant Chevron did not participate in the bid although it purchased most block data from Petrobangla.

Muktar Ali told the press that a bid evaluation committee has started working on the offers immediately and Petrobangla intends to sign all PSCs by October this year.

Some important features of the PSCs under this bid include full repatriation of profit, no signature bonus or royalty, and no duty for equipment and machinery imported for petroleum operations during exploration, production and development phases.

THE BIDS
ConocoPhillips offered four PSCs, each for two blocks. These blocks are 10 and 11, 12 and 17, 15 and 16, and 20 and 21. The US company offered to conduct 1,200 line kilometres of 2D seismic survey under each of the PSC in the initial operation period (IOP) of seven years. After the IOP, during the first extension of contract, the company promises to conduct 500 sqkm of 3D survey and drill at least one well under each of the PSCs.

Santos International proffered three PSCs, each for two blocks. These blocks are 10 and 11, 12 and 13, and 15 and 16. During the IOP for blocks 10 and 11 and 15 and 16, the company proposes 2,000km of 2D seismic survey, and 1,000 sqkm of 3D seismic survey. During the first and second extensions, the company proposes drilling four wells here. In blocks 12 and 13, Santos offers to conduct 2,400 km 2D seismic survey and 1,000 sqkm 3D seismic survey in the IOP and drill four wells in the first and second extension periods.

Both Santos and ConocoPhillips submitted bids for blocks 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16.

In shallow water block 03, Longwoods proposed 1,200 km 2D seismic survey and drill two wells in the IOP and conduct 1,500 km seismic survey and more than 500 sqkm 3D seismic survey in the follow up periods. In blocks 13 and 18, Longwoods also proposed conducting 1,200 km 2D seismic survey and 500 sqkm 3D seismic survey during IOP and conduct 1,500 km seismic survey and more than 500 sqkm 3D seismic survey in the follow up periods.

In blocks 9 and 14, Contrack offered 1,200 km seismic survey in the IOP, 750 km seismic survey plus 500 sqkm of 3D seismic survey and drilling of one well in the first extension period and another in the second extension period.

In the shallow water block of 5, Tullow offers to conduct 570 km of seismic survey in the IOP, 700 sqkm 3D seismic survey and drill a well in the first extension period and 400 sqkm 3D seismic survey in the second extension period.

In shallow water block of 1, CNOOC proposed seismic survey of 1,000 km each in three phases of the contract, totalling 3,000km,

and drill two wells in the two extension periods.

LUKEWARM RESPONSE

This bidding is the first of its kind in the country where the focus is paid exclusively on the Bay of Bengal. India has heavily explored the Bay in recent years and has discovered 100 trillion cubic feet (tcf) gas and two billion barrels of oil in place. Even Myanmar in 2006 discovered 7 tcf gas in an offshore area which may be overlapping with Bangladesh maritime boundary.

Despite huge prospects, the bid failed to generate a lot of offers because of several factors, said a few Petrobangla officials.

Petrobangla has been preparing for this block round since 2006. But unlike the past bids, Petrobangla did not stage any road shows abroad to attract oil companies. In addition, presently some other countries are holding their own block bidding, which kept many oil companies pre-occupied.

Finally, there are doubts about maritime boundary of some blocks close to India and Myanmar.



PHOTO: ISPR

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman sees off Bangladesh Armed Forces team who is going to take part in the relief and salvage operations in the cyclone-hit Myanmar at Kurmitola Air Base yesterday.

Credit Rating of FIRST SECURITY BANK LIMITED

Ratings

Long Term : BBB1

Short Term : ST-3

Date of Rating : April 20, 2008

Validity : One Year

1. Rationale

Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) Limited has assigned BBB1 (Pronounced Triple B One) rating in the long term and ST-3 rating in the short term to First Security Bank Limited (FSBL).

Commercial banks rated in the long term BBB1 belong to 'Average Safety' cohort. These banks are adjudged to be solid banks, characterized by average financials, valuable and defensible business franchises, and an attractive and stable operating environment. This level of rating indicates average capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, moderate likelihood to be adversely affected by foreseeable events. Commercial banks rated in the short term 'ST-3' category are considered to have average capacity for timely repayment of obligations, although such capacity may impair by adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions. Banks rated in this category are characterised with satisfactory level of liquidity, internal fund generation, and access to alternative sources of funds.

CREDIT OF BONUS SHARES

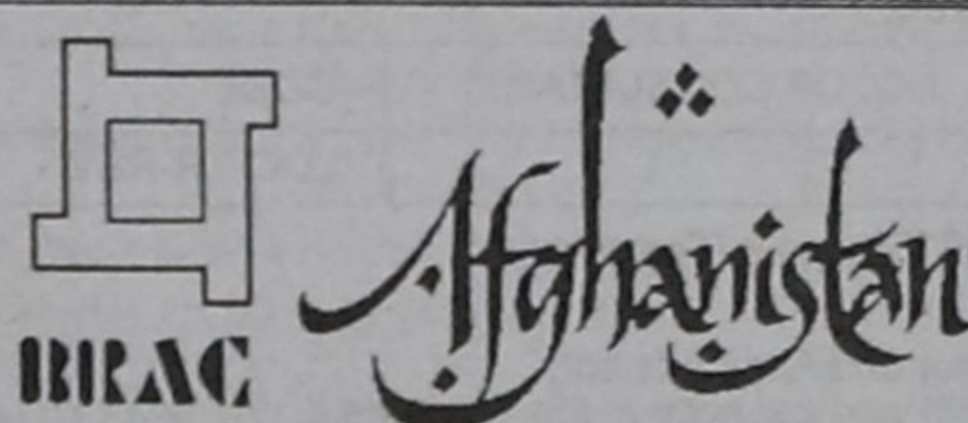
This is for information of all our valued shareholders that the 40 percent Bonus Shares for the year 2007 as approved in the Twelfth Annual General Meeting held on 30 April 2008 have been credited to the respective BO accounts on 7 May 2008 through CDBL system.

The sale proceeds of the fractional bonus shares will be dispatched on 1 June 2008 to the registered address of the shareholders through courier service upon receipt of the proceeds. However, interested shareholders may collect the dividend warrant for their fractional shares from 25 May to 30 May 2008 during business hour from the following address.



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Experience : At least 3-5 years in the required field

Age : Maximum 45 years (May be relaxed in case of suitable candidate)

Salary : Negotiable

Job Location : BRAC Afghanistan

Consultant (Gynecology)

Required Qualification : MBBS, FCPS (Gynecology & Obstetrics) / DGO. Must have recognition by Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council (BMDC).

Experience : At least 3-5 years in the required field

Age : Maximum 45 years (May be relaxed in case of suitable candidate)

Salary : Negotiable

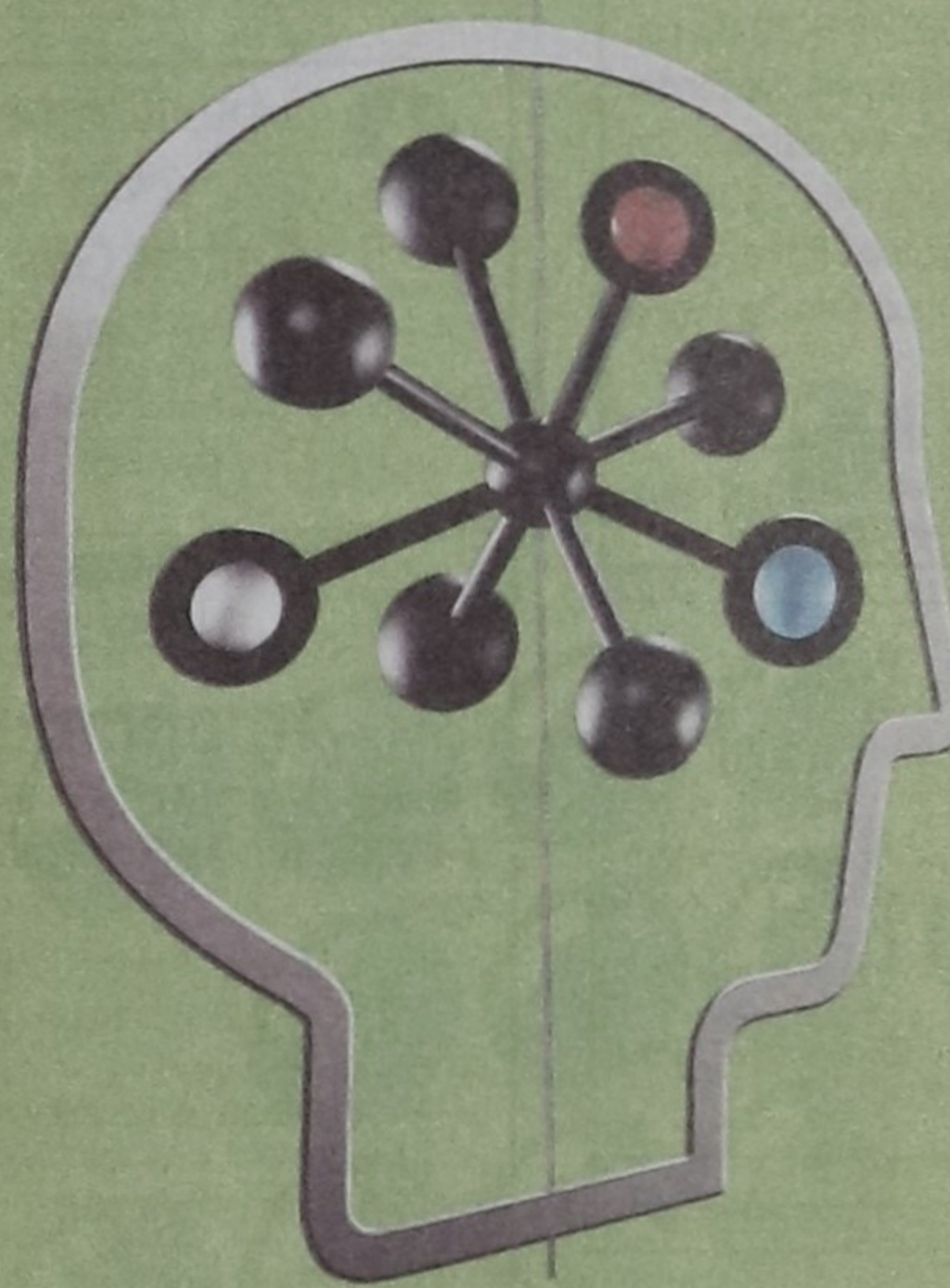
Job Location : BRAC Afghanistan

Salary & Other benefits for both positions : Salary is negotiable.

Selected candidates will be entitled to food allowance, free single accommodation and paid home leave with airfare. Employment will be initially on contractual basis for one year with possibility of extension.

If you feel you are the right person for this position please apply with detailed CV along with a Photocopy of S.S.C Certificate, telephone number and two recent passport size color photographs to **R, S & P Section, BRAC-HRD, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 by May 25, 2008.** Please mention the name of the position and ad # 24/08 on top of the envelope and the application. You can also send your resume to recruitment@brac.net

Women and people from ethnic minorities and different abilities are encouraged to apply



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