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**রেডি দোকান**  
বিক্রয়  
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বিস্তৃত ফর ফিউচার লিঃ

## Girls' empowerment can stop child marriage

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of the adult people (58%) have the knowledge about the legal age of marriage for a girl while one-third (31%) perceive marriage of a girl between the age of 15 and 17 as child marriage.

This was the finding of a survey conducted by AC Nielsen Bangladesh with the help of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) under its 'Pro-

motion of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment' project.

The survey findings were disseminated through a workshop titled 'Child marriage and its consequences' organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs at Biam Foundation in the city yesterday.

A total of 2400 adult people took part in the survey which was conducted in all the upazilas of Sylhet and Cox's Bazar districts from

September to November 2007.

According to the survey, 47 percent respondents said poverty was the main cause of child marriage while 35 percent respondents said parents' fear of losing good groom is another important reason.

The other causes of girls' child marriage are lack of education and awareness, more dowry for older girl, fear of losing social prestige and fear of potential love marriage, said Managing Director of The Nielsen Company, Bangladesh Dr Khalid Hasan while presenting the survey findings.

Fifty percent respondents of the survey opined for raising awareness on the negative consequences of child marriage to stop it.

Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana was the chief guest at the workshop which was participated by government's representatives, NGO workers, civil society members, religious leaders, marriage registrars and media workers.

They laid emphasis on capacity building from the grassroots level to stop child marriage.

UNFPA representative Arthur Erken said child marriage can be prevented only by eliminating status imbalance between a boy and a girl and this can be achieved by making the girls economically empowered.

UNFPA Project Director Mohammed Mokhlesur Rahman and Director General of the Department of Women Affairs Ekram Ahmed were present on the occasion.

## SERIAL BOMB BLASTS Two JMB men get life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday sentenced two activists of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to life imprisonment in a case filed in connection with the serial bomb blasts in front of Barisal Central Jail on August 17, 2005.

Both the convicts -- Zahid Babu and Ziaur Rahman Zia -- were tried in absentia. They were also fined Tk 10,000 each. If they fail to pay, they will have to serve one more year in jail.

The court, however, acquitted seven other accused -- Golam Morshed Chowdhury Reza, Jalal Arefin, Hafez Saiful Islam, Abu Solaiman Sujjan, Abu Yusuf Majumdar, Md Maruf and Jasimuddin.

Judge Rabiul Hassan of the Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal delivered the judgment after examining 19 witnesses and other evidence.

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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (ROEI) Supervisor Level Training Program for the RMG Industry**

International Finance Corporation-SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (IFC SEDF) is a multi-donor funded facility to support the establishment and growth of private small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Northeast India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. IFC-SEDF is managed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group.

The Ready Made Garment sector of Bangladesh employs 2.5 million workers, 90% of which are women but very few of whom are at the supervisor level. To create opportunity for the female workforce IFC-SEDF in partnership with Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will be launching a supervisory level training program for the female RMG workers/operators. The objective of the program is to provide supervisory level training to 50 potential female workers/operators in five factories in the first phase so that the trainees are capable of assuming the responsibility of line supervisor. The success of the program will lead to better relationship between workers and supervisors, job security and higher income.

IFC-SEDF is seeking to engage a qualified consulting company to conduct the supervisory level training program in five RMG factories. IFC-SEDF now invites eligible consulting companies to indicate their interest for the following scope of work:

**Scope of Work:**  
An indicative, but not exhaustive list of Scope of Work is as follows:

- Conduct a need assessment to identify the gap in the skill level of the trainees
- Based on the assessment conduct training program for the female workers addressing the following issues:
  - Labor law and social compliance
  - Layout and line controlling/balancing
  - Production planning
  - Reporting
  - Quality management for productivity improvement
  - Leadership and crisis management
  - Communication and behavior
- Monitor the improvement of skill level of the trainees

**Deliverables:**

- Need assessment report
- Project completion report
- Recommendations for each participants in terms of her readiness to assume the role of line supervisor
- Recommendations for advance training
- Training modules developed for the program

**Minimum Qualification and Eligibility Criteria:**

- Experience in conducting similar programs preferably in the Ready Made Garment Sector

IFC-SEDF now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing their services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may associate with other consultants/consulting firms to enhance their qualifications.

The expected commencement date of the assignment is, October 30, 2008. The expected duration is a maximum of 35 staff days.

All eligible firms for above position are advised to apply to the following address on or before October 17th, 2008, by 5:00 pm. The submission will be labeled as "Supervisory level Training Program".

Only short-listed firms will be contacted. IFC-SEDF reserves the right to modify the current scope of work if required.

**Syed Nayeem Emran**  
Associate Operations Officer  
Bay's Galleria (2nd Floor) 57 Gulshan Avenue  
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Note: Any effort to unduly influence the recruitment will be a reason for disqualification. Those who have applied within the last 6 months need not apply again. Applications will be kept strictly confidential.

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