

IDCOL plans to produce solar panels locally

UNB, Dhaka

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), a non-bank financial institution, is planning to produce solar panels locally in an effort to bring the country's rural areas under power supply network faster.

"We've planned to produce solar panel to make it cheaper as well as expand our service areas in line with the government vision of 'Electricity for all by 2020'," IDCOL's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive

Director Islam Sharif told UNB.

IDCOL now imports solar panels from various countries, including China and India, which is costlier for local users. "But, if we can produce the solar panel locally it would be cheaper for the villagers and they can use it as an individual power system," Sharif said.

Sharif, who served as vice president of Citibank NA in New York, suggested that the government go for a comprehensive campaign to encourage people to use solar energy,

as the national power grid is unable to cope with the growing power demand.

"We also encourage the businessmen to install solar energy system in their industries. We are ready to assist them (businessmen) in this regard," he said.

Sharif said the country's most development plans focus on the capital or metro cities. "But, IDCOL turns its focus on urban, suburb and rural areas," he said.

The IDCOL boss said they also have a plan for setting up their own power plants in

different regions of the country where poor road communications hamper local trades.

About IDCOL activities, Sharif said IDCOL promotes solar home systems (SHSs) in rural areas under a programme jointly financed by IDA, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and KfW & GTZ.

IDCOL has made an upward revision in its target of financing 300,000 SHSs by 2009 as over 295,000 SHSs have already been installed.

The IDCOL CEO said the programme is being implemented through 15 partner organisations (POs) -- Grameen Shakti, Brac Foundation, Srizonny Bangladesh, COAST Trust, TMSS, IDE, CMES, Upokulio Bidyutayon O Mahila Unnayan Samity (UBOMUS), Shubashati, BRIDGE, Padakshep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK), Palli Daridra Bimochan Foundation (PDBF), Hilful Fuzul Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, Mukti Cox's Bazar and Rural Services Foundation (RSF).

SHSs are sold (mostly through micro-credit) by POs to the households and business entities in remote rural areas, Sharif said, adding that IDCOL provides refinancing facility to the POs and channel grants to reduce the SHS costs as well as supporting the institutional development of the POs.

"IDCOL also provides technical, logistic, promotional and training assistance to the POs."

About cheaper biogas plants, Sharif said those plants consume huge time and space to produce energy, but solar energy takes only 1-2 hours for power generation and only the rooftop of any house for installation. "Even then, IDCOL is also involved in the promotion of biogas plants across Bangladesh."

Since June 2006, he said, they have set up over 7,000 biogas plants in rural areas through its partner organisations under the National Domestic Biogas and Manure Programme (NDBMP). It has a target of financing 60,000 such plants by 2010. So far, 2400 biogas plants have been set up.

Gas produced through these plants is used for cooking and lighting in rural households. The slurry of biogas plants, being a very good organic fertiliser, is used to maintain soil fertility and increase crop production apart from being fish feed.



A snake charmer entertains people during the Baishakhi Festival organised by the Cultural Club of United International University (UIU) on Residential Model College premises in the city yesterday.

College student killed in road accident

Protesters block Dhaka-Mymensingh highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A college student was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Mashkanda bypass road in the district town yesterday morning.

Following the accident, fellow students blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for about three hours and ransacked several vehicles.

On information, police and college high-ups rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control after speaking with the agitating students.

The dead was identified as Poritosh Chandra, 20, a 6th semester student of Mymensingh Polytechnic Institute while the injured are Mahmudul, 18, a fourth year student of the same institute, and Subrata Sarker, 18, a student of Manab Sampad Unnayan College.

The accident took place at around 6:30am when a speeding microbus knocked them down while they were walking beside the road.

Locals rushed them to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where Poritosh succumbed to his injuries at around 8:15am.

Subrata was brought to Dhaka for better treatment as his condition deteriorated.

'Increase allocation for biological sciences'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday said allocation for the fields of biological sciences should be increased and researchers and scientists be allowed to enjoy freedom so that they can engage themselves in full-time researches to face food and economic crises.

"Currently, we have been facing two important aspects globally -- one food crisis and the other economic recession. For survival, food security is a priority-based requisite which should be met with an appropriate development of our indigenous methods and technologies," he added.

Prof Arefin said this as the chief guest while addressing the 17th annual national conference and general meeting 2009 of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh (ZSB) at AKM Giasuddin Milky Auditorium in the city.

Formally declaring the conference on 'Role of Faunal Survey in Bangladesh Economy' open, the DU VC said the government should shoulder the researchers' responsibility for meeting their full financial requirements too.

"We have to enhance our knowledge and try to develop new indigenous technologies to grow more food. For this, we will have to change our mentality and be more positive about our efforts," he added.

Prof Arefin further said that diversified presence of flora and fauna is beneficial to economic and social development of the country, adding that non-traditional animal

farming can open up various avenues that can provide a broader income base and increase profitability over traditional agriculture.


Zoologists at the programme called on the universities and institutions concerned to work with bio-

logical sciences to conduct more researches to face the upcoming crisis in the sector.

Prof Sohrab Ali of Zoology department at Rajshahi University said there are yet to do any research to calculate how many species, insects available in Bangladesh.



Trade Union Federation demonstrates at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding an end to water and power crisis.



SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY

House No. 64/B, Road No. 18, Banani, Dhaka-1213

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Applications in the prescribed form obtainable from the office of the Registrar are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for the following posts of this University:

Name of the Post	Requirements
System Engineer	At least M. Sc/B. Sc in Computer Science. Candidates should have at least 8 years' experiences as Network Engineer/ System Administrator/ System Engineer.
Assistant Librarian	At least Master's degree in Library Science. Candidates should have at least 5 years' administrative experience at a reputed University level. Proficiency in English and IT literacy will be regarded as an additional qualification.
Assistant Section Officer	At least Master's degree with 4 years' practical experience in relevant fields. Candidates having experience will be given preference.
Computer Hardware Engineer (Electronics)	Diploma in Electronics with 3 years' practical experiences of repair and maintenance of computers, printers, multimedia projectors & Lab equipment.
Computer Operator	At least Graduate with 4 years' practical experience in relevant fields.
Caretaker	At least bachelor degree with five years' experience in the relevant field preferably in a big academic or industrial establishment.
Lab Assistant (Computer Software)	Diploma in computer science with 3 years' experiences to set-up computers with necessary software, repair and maintain software and hardware of computer Laboratory.

Salary will be offered as per Pay-scale of this University. Higher start of pay is possible for deserving candidates. Candidates having 3rd division/ class in academic career need not apply. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Applications with complete bio-data with the names of two referees along with attested copies of certificates, testimonials and mark sheets and two copies of passport-size photograph should reach the Registrar of this University at the above address on or before **10.05.2009**. Candidates may also download the Application Form from the University website : www.seu.ac.bd.

REGISTRAR

Govt may miss MRP deadline

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of the Department of Immigration and Passport, said nothing has been finalised about the MRP project. "We hope to finalise it in next July," he told The Daily Star.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) instructed all its 181 member countries to introduce e-passport by 2014 to avoid hassles during international travel. But the government is paying little heed to it.

The US, UK, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are among the 75 countries who have already introduced e-passports and many more are to follow in the coming years.

"If the government fails to take initiative soon the country will face the same problem, which it is now facing with MRP," said a home ministry official involved in the MRP project. The official said the government could easily go for e-passport with help from ICAO.

"The government does not need huge money for e-passport. What we need is a quick plan and initiative," the official added.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) on March 19 approved Tk 283 crore for the MRP project and machine-readable visas (MRV).

Bangladesh citizens' access to international manpower markets and all types of visas would be at risk if the government fails to introduce the MRP by April 2010.

The government expects to start issuing machine-readable passports in 2010 and deliver up to 1.85 crore passports by 2014, the year for introducing e-passports.

The budget of Tk 283 crore

for MRP is in stark contrast to a failed procurement scheme spearheaded in 2006 by the then state minister for home

Lutfuzzaman Babar who sought over Tk 750 crore for it. Babar undertook the scheme without the Ecne approval. The then cabinet also did not approve the project as it had various legal loopholes and also because the home ministry failed to give a breakdown of the project cost. At present, 1.5 crore people of the country have international passport and 12 lakh new passports are issued annually. Planning ministry sources said the government would earn around Tk 9,000 crore of revenue in the next five years after the MRP project is implemented.

Of the member nations, 115 including India and Pakistan have so far issued MRPs to their citizens. Bangladesh is a member of the ICAO, a global forum for civil aviation and a specialised United Nations agency that codifies principles and techniques of international aviation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport.

During the last caretaker government regime, the home ministry revived the project and took technical help of International Organisation on Migration (IOM), a body of the United Nations that deals with immigration issues. It helps different countries in introducing MRP and MRV and has been working in Bangladesh since 2004. The caretaker government eventually decided to leave the project for the next elected government.

The Awami League (AL) government of 1996-2001 had taken, for the first time, an initiative for introducing MRP in 1998.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES


Well reputed UK/Bangladesh apparel Manufacturing Company invites applications for the following positions.

Human Resource Manager
Plant Manager
Industrial Engineering Manager
Management Accountant
Shipping Manager
Finishing Manager
Cutting Manager
Technical Manager
Fabric Technologies
Senior Quality Assurance Executives
Line Managers
Senior Merchandiser
CAD/CAM Operator (Gerber/Lectra)

The candidates must have strong academic background, fluency in spoken and written English and minimum 5 to 10 years working experience in a reputed company.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with complete resume and a recent passport size photograph on or before the 10th May 2009 to the following address.

Box # A- 41
C/O, The Daily Star
19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka- 1215



SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY

House No. 64/B, Road No. 18, Banani, Dhaka-1213

FACULTY SEARCH

Applications in the prescribed form obtainable from the office of the Registrar are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for the following posts of this University:

Name of the Posts	Requirements
Assistant Professor in the Department of English	For Ph. D: 2 years of active teaching service in a public or private university as a Lecturer and must have at least 2 publications. For M. Phil or Equivalent Master's Degree (additional) from abroad: 3 years of active teaching service in a public or private university as a Lecturer and must have at least 2 publications. For others: 3 years of active teaching service in a public or private university as a Lecturer and must have at least 3 publications.
Senior Lecturer in the Department of English	For Ph. D: 1 year of active teaching/research experience in a public or private university as a Lecturer. For M. Phil or Equivalent Master's Degree (additional) from abroad: 1 year of active teaching/research experience in a public or private university as a Lecturer and must have at least 1 publication. For others: 1 year of active teaching service in a public or private university as a Lecturer and must have at least 2 publications.
Lecturer in the Department of English	Master's degree in English with minimum 2 nd class both in Honors and Master's degree from a recognized University. The candidate should have First Division or equivalent in all other examinations passed.

- Salary will be offered as per Pay-scale of this University. Higher start of pay is admissible for deserving candidates.
- Qualifications may be waived in case of exceptionally suitable candidates.
- North American Degrees will be preferred.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

Applications with complete bio-data with the names of two referees along with attested copies of certificates and mark-sheets and two copies of passport-size photograph should reach the Registrar of this University at the above address on or before **04.05.2009**. Candidates may also download the Application form from the University website : www.seu.ac.bd.

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