

## PM seeks US support in implementing projects

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought US support for implementing various programmes of her government, including women empowerment, poverty alleviation, education and healthcare services.

Hasina sought the support of a 35-member delegation of Harvard University of the United States led by Genet Muror called on the premier at her Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban office.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and son of the prime minister Sajib Wazed were present during the meeting.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Nazrul Islam said the premier told the delegation that her government has attached priority to education for empowerment of women.

In this context, she said that her government is going to introduce compulsory education up to degree level. Besides, the government is planning to provide tiffin to school students to reduce dropout.

"I personally believe that women empowerment in real sense of the term is possible through poverty alleviation" said Nazrul Islam quoting the prime minister as saying.

The government has taken all-out steps to increase the country's literacy rate to hundred percent by 2014. Sheikh Hasina mentioned diverse social safety-net programmes undertaken by her government in this regard.

Referring to her government's steps to make the women development policy time befitting, the premier said steps have already been taken to reduce discrimination between man and woman.

Awami League gave 19 percent nominations to women candidates during the last general election and most of them have become lawmakers and they are even performing their duties in the state's important posts, said Hasina.

On the other hand, representation of women has also been increasing in army, police and other sectors, she added.

Citing healthcare facilities for women through healthcare community centres, the prime minister said the government is committed to ensuring healthcare of all especially women and children.

The delegation members lauded the leadership of the prime minister saying that they are hopeful about achieving the targeted development in a short span of time under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

### INDIRA PEACE AWARD

## Different bodies hail Hasina

DU CORRESPONDENT

Various socio-political organisations yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her winning the Indira Gandhi Peace Award and her successful visit to India.

In separate messages, they hoped that the implementation of the treaties signed between the two countries would benefit peoples of both the countries and help ensure security of the region.

The organisations include Sammlito Nagorik Andolan, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolan and Jatiya Gonotantrik League.

Hasina, also the president of the ruling Awami League, has brightened the country's image by winning the Indira Gandhi Peace Award, leaders of the organisations said.

They also said that the prime minister's visit has ushered in a new era of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to hail Hasina for her successful visit to India.

## NU admission test today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for the first year honours courses of National University (NU) under the academic session 2009-10 will be held today, says a press release.

The examination will start at 11:00am at a time at 129 centres across the country, says a press release.

A total of 3,21,544 students will take part in the examination for seats at 212 colleges under NU.



A woman admires clothes at a stall at the annual Ananda Mela-2010 at Dhaka Officers' Club in the city yesterday. Officers' Club Mahila Committee organised the event.

## Help build terrorism-, graft-free Bangladesh: Azad

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Abdul Kalam Azad yesterday called for extending cooperation to build a terrorism-, corruption- and poverty-free Bangladesh by contributing from their respective positions.

"Cooperation of women is necessary to march forward the nation because half of country's population is women," he said.

Azad was addressing the inaugural function of annual 'Ananda Mela-2010' organised by Officers' Club Mahila Committee at Bailey Road in the city.

Chaired by president of the Mahila Committee Begum Rehana Aziz, the

function was also addressed by general secretary of Officers' Club Abu Alam Mohammad Shaheed Khan and General Secretary of Mahila Committee Prof Fahima Khatun.

The minister urged the women to cooperate with the government to implement the vision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to make Bangladesh a middle income country by 2021.

He said, "a number of women are performing responsibility of various important ministries and they are performing well. We believe in empowerment of women," he added.

"The government is considering to raise 33 percent seats reserved for

women in parliament to ensure more participation of women in politics," Azad said.

Referring to PM's visit to India, he said in the context of present world, progress is not possible until good relations with the neighbouring countries exist.

Later, the minister inaugurated the 'Ananda Mela' by releasing pigeons.

The mela (fair) will remain open for public from 10:00am to 9:00pm everyday until January 16.

A total of 94 stalls have been set up in the fair to showcase different kinds of products including cottage and handicrafts.

## Winter clothes for poor

METRO DESK



Mercantile Bank Limited under its corporate social responsibility programme recently distributed winter clothes worth Tk 25 lakh among the poor in 14 districts, says a press release.

The 14,000 winter clothes, including blankets, shawls and sweaters, were distributed from January 8 to 12.

The district are Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Naogaon, Feni, Chandpur, Dhaka, Narayanganj and Pabna.



Chairman of Mercantile Bank Abdul Jalil distributes warm clothes among the poor recently.

### DFID Bangladesh - Economic Adviser

The Department for International Development (DFID) Bangladesh requires a knowledgeable, experienced and enthusiastic **Economic Adviser** with policy experience to join a dynamic international team based in its Dhaka office.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

You will have a post-graduate qualification (Masters or above, or equivalent from an internationally recognised programme) in a discipline relevant to economics, international economics or development economics. In addition, you should have a minimum of 5 years experience in an Economist role, ideally including experience in both macroeconomic and microeconomic analysis (including economic appraisal and poverty analysis). For this level of seniority, you will demonstrate policy formulation and influencing competencies in addition to project level capabilities.

You will already have a successful track record of achievement as a development professional, especially as part of an international development or private organisation. DFID welcomes specialists with Bangladesh expertise, as well as international exposure.

**PERSONAL SKILLS**

Your application will give examples of your general competence in Working With Others; Communicating With Others; Planning and Delivery of Work; Analysis and Use of Information; and Influencing. Your written and spoken English must be excellent.

**COMPENSATION PACKAGE**

A competitive salary starting at BDT 274,170.00 per month, with annual progression plus benefits will be offered for this post. A relocation allowance for successful overseas candidates will be offered if necessary, although you will need to hold Bangladeshi citizenship or have a work permit valid for Bangladesh.

**CONTACTS**

For an **Application Form** and full **Job Description**, please email: [dfidb-recruitment@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:dfidb-recruitment@dfid.gov.uk) and put "**Request for Application Form**" in the 'Subject' field. The papers will then be sent to you electronically. Completed application forms should include "**Completed Application Form**" in the 'Subject' field and be emailed to the above email address no later than **15 February 2010**. Only applications made on the DFID Application Form and submitted via email will be considered.

DFID is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are welcome from all ethnic groups, women and disabled people. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for the selection process which will be through an Assessment Centre arrangement.



## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

The British Council invites applications for the post of **Human Resources Manager** within its main office in Dhaka. The Human Resources Manager will:


- Provide expert HR advice and support to managers regarding Recruitment, Performance Management, Learning and Development and TACOS (Terms and Conditions of Staff).
- Manage and support the development and monitoring of HR systems, policies and procedures in Bangladesh.
- Ensure that his/her own personal and professional development contributes to effective job performance, motivation and personal satisfaction.

The successful applicant will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and interest in more than one of the following areas: Recruitment, Performance Management, Learning and Development or local employment law.
- Ideally have relevant HR experience or transferable skills gained in a similar role, preferably within an international organisation.
- Ideally have a Bachelor's Degree and/or a qualification in Human Resources Management
- Be efficient, dynamic and energetic, show initiative and be able to work independently.
- Have excellent communication skills in English and Bangla.
- Enjoy working co-operatively in a team across cultural and organisational boundaries.
- Meet the competencies outlined in the job description.

To apply please download the **Job description, Advice for external candidates** and the **Application form** from our website at: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh-about-us-jobs.htm>. Applications can be submitted electronically to [dhaka.enquiries@bd.britishcouncil.org](mailto:dhaka.enquiries@bd.britishcouncil.org) or via hard copy to British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka - 1000. Please mark the application for the attention of the Business Support Services Manager. **Closing date:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Interviews will take place in the week commencing Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for education opportunities and cultural relations. We are committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect diversity at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.




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