

NOBEL AWARD CEREMONY TODAY

UNHCHR chief urges to free Chinese Nobel Peace laureate

AFP, GENEVA, Oslo

UN human rights chief Navi Pillay yesterday called for the release of jailed Chinese Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, on the eve of the award ceremony in Oslo.

"It is my view that the case should be reviewed, and Liu Xiaobo should be released as soon as possible," she said at a news conference ahead of World Human Rights Day on Friday, which coincides with the Nobel ceremony in Oslo.

China has sharply criticised the Nobel award and those who support the Chinese dissident, and said most of the world was opposed to the Oslo-based committee's decision to honour him.

An exiled Chinese dissident representing Liu's family has criticised the UN rights chief for not attending the ceremony for the laureate, charging she was bowing to pressure from Beijing, but she replied that she had prior engagements connected with marking Human Rights Day.

Meanwhile, the head of the Nobel Committee insisted Thursday this year's choice of peace laureate, jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, was not "against" Beijing.

"This is not a prize against China. This is a prize honouring people in China," Thorbjørn Jagland told a press conference traditionally held by the laureate on the day before the annual peace prize ceremony.

He was surprised to see the level of international support for jailed Chinese dissident and peace prize laureate Liu Xiaobo despite pressure from Beijing.



Liu Xiaobo

"We were not expecting a lot of support at a political level since so many countries depend on China economically and politically," chairman Thorbjørn Jagland told the commercial TV2 News channel.

"I am pleased to see how many international leaders have so strenuously demanded Liu's release," he added.

Speaking of the empty chair that will represent this year's absent prizewinner, who remains in a Chinese prison, he said "it is a very strong symbol (that) shows how appropriate this prize was."

On the other hand, China yesterday said the "overwhelming majority" of people around the world opposed the Nobel committee's decision to honour jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo as this year's peace laureate.

The fresh round of criticism of the Oslo-based committee comes on the eve of a ceremony in the Norwegian capital honouring Liu, who was jailed in December 2009 for 11 years on subversion charges.

"Those people at the Nobel committee have to admit they are in the minority. The Chinese people and the overwhelming majority of people in the world oppose what they do," foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told reporters.

"Any attempt to exert pressure on China... cannot succeed."

Earlier this week, Jiang referred to the members of the committee as "clowns" and accused them of "orchestrating an anti-China fuss".

The writer and former professor, who was at the forefront of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, was jailed in December 2009 for 11 years on subversion charges after co-authoring "Charter 08", a manifesto that spread quickly on the Internet calling for political reform and greater rights in China.

INDIAN TELECOM SCAM
Govt appoints retired SC judge to probe

NDTV, New Delhi

The Indian government has asked a retired Supreme Court judge to look into the telecom policies followed by different governments since 2001.

Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal said the inquiry by retired judge Shivraj Patil will be completed within four weeks. It will examine instances where procedure was not followed, as well as any lack of transparency.

Sibal said that the Supreme Court is already examining criminal culpability for the humongous 2G scam - estimated to be worth Rs. 1.76 lakh crore by the government's auditor.

Meanwhile, sources in the CBI say that during the raids at A Raja's home, they have seized three diaries, written in English, crammed with numbers that seem to indicate details of business transactions.

Till last month, when he was forced to resign, Raja was the Telecom Minister. Before that, he was the Environment Minister in UPA1, and these diaries are reportedly from that period.

Raja's homes in Delhi and his family's homes in Tamil Nadu were raided yesterday, along with the houses of four of his close aides and a man reported to be his business partner.

The raids came nearly a year after the CBI filed a police case against unknown officials in the Telecom Department for what's being described as India's largest-ever scam and centres on the allocation of valuable 2G spectrum in 2008 when Raja was Telecom Minister.

Many said that the raids were pretence by the government to suggest that the CBI investigation will indeed uncover those responsible for the great 2G robbery.

Critics point out that Raja and those who worked closely with him and are now being questioned had plenty of time to get rid of any documentary evidence of their alleged misdeeds.

However, the CBI said yesterday after the raids that it had found "incriminating documents" but did not specify who these were likely to indict.

'Diamond-studded' planet found

IANS, Washington

Astronomers led by Indian-American Nikku Madhusudhan have discovered a giant planet with an atmosphere and core dominated by carbon, raising the prospect that diamond-studded stars may exist.

Madhusudhan, a Banaras Hindu University (BHU) alumnus now at Princeton University, and his colleagues have observed that an extremely hot planet discovered last year has more carbon than oxygen - a feature never observed on a planet until now.

The planet, called WASP-12b, orbits a star about 1,200 light-years from Earth, and appears to have temperatures of nearly 2300°C - hot enough to melt stainless steel, the scientists said in the journal Nature.

A computational technique developed two years ago by Madhusudhan while he was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, was used to analyse the atmosphere of the planet.

Like Jupiter, WASP-12b is made largely of gas, only its core contains carbon-based minerals such as diamonds and graphite, said Madhusudhan, now a postdoctoral scientist in the department of astrophysical sciences at Princeton.

EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh invites applications from suitable candidates for a position of **Programme Officer - Education** to strengthen its Operations Section.

The detailed Job Description, Job Profile and EC standard CV can be found on our website under opportunities: <http://delbgd.ec.europa.eu>.

Applications including detailed CV (EC format to be downloaded from our website under opportunities), two professional references (without copies of degrees and employment certificates at this stage) and a cover letter describing your motivation, should be addressed to Mr. Michel Bayot, Head of Administration, European Union, Delegation to Bangladesh, Road 84, Plot 7, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212 in a sealed enveloped marked "Temporary Programme Officer-Education". A soft copy should also be sent to: ashrafuzzaman.ashraf@ec.europa.eu.

The deadline for receiving applications is **Wednesday, December 22, 2010**.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (Re-Advertisement)

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Field Research Officer** with the Programme on Infectious Diseases & Vaccine Sciences under the Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division. The appointment will be made on a Fixed Term basis for 1 year, but we expect that successful candidate will be reappointed for a longer duration.

Duty Station - Dhaka

Salary - Annual Tk.346,860/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities - 14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, Children allowance @Tk.1,420/= per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen, daycare facilities.

For detailed job profile and requirements, please visit our website: www.icddr.org. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit an **online application** by **December 18, 2010**. Candidates who applied before need not apply.

Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for the interview.

icddr,b
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UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org/bd

Position: **1) Senior Consultant (Civil Engineering)**, - WES Section
2) Junior Consultant (Hydrology) - WES Section
3) Junior Consultant (Social Marketing) - WES Section

Last date of receiving applications: **21 December 2010**

Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. Only short listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

Application with CV and a copy of filled in P-11 form should be forwarded to the Chief, Human Resources, BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Shahbag, Dhaka.

UNICEF IS COMMITTED TO GENDER EQUALITY IN ITS MANDATE AND ITS STAFF. WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY FEMALES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment

www.unicef.org/bd

unite for children unicef

QULKHANI

Mr. Rashed Masur Khan, director of Bengal Fine Ceramics Ltd, passed on 7th December, 2010 at United Hospital (InnaRajeun) at the age of 67. His Qulkhani will be held at his residence **House # 3/5, Block # E, Lalmatia, Dhaka, on 10th December, 2010 after Asr**. All Friends, Relatives and well-wisher are requested to attend the Doa Mahfil.

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TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Suppliers/Sole-Agents/Importers for supply & installation of portable Electric Generators (Preferably Japan/USA/any European Country/Malaysia/Taiwan/Australia/Korea Origin) having capacity range from 5.0 KVA to 10.5 KVA at different branches of Uttara Bank Limited. Intending Tenderers having work experience for supplying, installation & maintenance of at least 100 Nos. of Electric Generators at different Organizations during the last 3 (three) years may collect Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of **Tk. 1,000/-** only (non refundable) per set on or before **29-12-2010** during office hours after submission of written application on their letter head pad alongwith the attested copies of valid Trade Licence, VAT Registration Certificate, upto-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate and certificates from the concerned organization/organizations regarding their successful completion of work for supply, installation and maintenance of at least a total number of 100 Electric Generators (Ranging upto 10.5 KVA) at their different branches/offices.

Tenders will be received upto **02-00 PM on 30-12-2010** in the Tender Box placed at the office of the undersigned and will be opened on the same day at **2-30 PM**, in presence of the Tenderers or their representatives, if any. Other details will be available in the Tender Documents. For any further details anybody may contact the undersigned during the office hours.

The Uttara Bank Limited reserves the right not to accept the lowest Tender and to reject any Tender or part thereof or all Tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

ENGR. M.A. AWAL
GENERAL MANAGER

We seek a world of hope, tolerance, & social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity & security

Care
Care Bangladesh

Care (Re - Advertisement)

CARE Bangladesh invites applications for the following position for its **SHOUHARDO II Program**; based at CARE Bangladesh Headquarters. The duration of the proposed contract will be up to **May 31, 2015**.

Knowledge Management Coordinator (01 Position)

Further details of the position and instructions for the candidates wishing to apply are available on CARE Bangladesh's website at www.carebangladesh.org; last date of application submission is **December 18, 2010**. The person who applied earlier for the above position need not to apply again.

Note: Women are particularly encouraged to apply, Any persuasion will disqualify the candidates.

WFP
World Food Programme
wfp.org

বিশ্ব খাদ্য কর্মসূচী

Vacancy Announcement

VA No. WFP/022/2010

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Bangladesh invites applications from qualified and experienced professionals willing to join WFP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment of the following position:

Planning, Monitoring & Reporting Officer under Service Contract (SC) at NO-A equivalent position to be based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The duration of the contract is one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance and availability of fund.

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit WFP Bangladesh website: <http://www.wfp.org/bangladesh>

Last date of application: **20 December 2010**.

Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Citizens' Perceptions and Knowledge of Corruption -Request for Proposals

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) seeks a qualified firm to complete a National Baseline Survey for the USAID funded Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) Program. The survey will cover all of Bangladesh.

Objective. Uncover and provide a clear understanding of citizens' perceptions and knowledge of corruption across society and their day-to-day experiences with corruption.

Tasks. The selected firm will complete the following tasks: (1) develop the survey instrument; (2) field test the instrument; (3) conduct the survey nation-wide; (4) design and enter survey results in a computer database; and (5) complete basic statistical analysis of survey data. The selected firm will work closely with DAI in completing all aspects of the survey, particularly in the design of the survey instrument and the analysis of resulting data.

Survey Parameters:

- Systematic Random Sample;
- Estimated sample size of 3,500 citizens over the age of 17;
- Sample inclusive of each Division;
- National and Division samples proportionate to general population in age, gender and rural/urban ratios;
- Completion of all tasks within 16 weeks of contract award.

Proposals. Interested firms should submit proposals including the following information:

A. Qualifications. Describe any large (sample size greater than 1,000 persons), preferably national surveys you have conducted since 2005. Include information on methods, sample size, themes investigated and client reference information for each survey. Descriptions should be a maximum of one (1) page per survey conducted.

B. Methodology. Present your methodology for:

- Determining size of sample population;
- Selecting individuals in the sample;
- Field testing survey instruments; and
- Data collection and subsequent analysis.

C. Technical Approach. Explain how you will develop this survey questionnaire and collect data, including an explanation of roles and responsibilities of different levels of personnel involved in these tasks. Present a strategy for collecting accurate and complete information from respondents.

D. Quality Control. Describe your systems for ensuring the quality and accuracy of data collected stored in the survey database.

E. Timetable. Present a detailed timeline for completing the five (5) tasks noted above.

F. Budget. Provide clear and detailed budget estimates for all labor, travel and material costs necessary to complete all survey tasks.

Proposals will be assessed on both technical and cost proposals. Do not include attachments or promotional documents with your submission. Note that this enlistment does not in any way commit DAI to enter into contact or partnership with any organization.

Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be sent to progratio@dai.com with "Corruption Perceptions" in the subject line. Written submissions should be delivered to House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka- 1213, in sealed envelop addressed to "PROGATI Grants Manager". All submissions are due by 14:00 hours on **30 December 2010**. Only short listed organizations will be contacted.