

Reduce tobacco cultivation

Demand speakers at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a workshop here yesterday called for combined efforts to reduce tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh.

The workshop titled "Dissemination workshop of National Tobacco Control Cell report on Health and Environmental Impact of Tobacco Cultivation" was organised by Young Power in Social Action, a non-government organisation, at a hotel.

Dr Abu Taher, director of Directorate of Health, Chittagong zone, speaking as the chief guest, said the government alone cannot create awareness against tobacco cultivation.

He said Bangladesh's 43.3 percent population, 58 percent male and 42 percent female, over 15 years of age, consume tobacco products.

Around 53,000 people die in the country every year due to diseases caused by tobacco consumption while 382,000 become lame, he said.

Prof Dr Al-Amin, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science of Chittagong University, urged the government to stop providing tobacco companies subsidised prices of fertilisers, actually meant for farmers.

Prof Dr Salil Chowdhury of National Heart Foundation, Dhaka said tobacco cultivation causes skin and other diseases while tobacco companies capitalise on poverty of farmers.

Farida Akhter, co-ordinator of several NGOs, said some tobacco companies campaign for forestation although they cut a huge number of trees to fuel tobacco leaf drying ovens.

Rasheda Akhter, deputy secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Civil Surgeon of Chittagong Dr Abu Tayeb; Dr Ikbal Kabir; Saifuddin Ahmed; Ward Councillor Gias Uddin; and Irshad Chowdhury also spoke.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

Call to implement properly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants of a consultation meeting yesterday pointed out flaws and gave suggestions to improve rules on Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 for its proper implementation.

The consultation was organised by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWL) at Brac Centre Inn in the city. Law experts, women leaders, law enforcement agencies and members of government and private organisations participated at the programme.

This act is preventive in nature and does not punish anyone. It tries to solve family disputes before they can escalate into domestic violence said, Salma Ali, executive director of BNWL, at the meeting.

Women who are mentally or emotionally abused can seek protection through this act, she added.

"Without proper development, this law cannot be implemented. Without the law, women and child victims would find it hard to find institutional support such as shelter homes," said Salma.

THE DAILY STAR-STANDARD CHARTERED CELEBRATING LIFE CONTEST

Contract to hunt talents renewed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More talents working for disseminating the natural beauties and heritages of Bangladesh through photography, films and lyrics will get recognition under the "Celebrating Life," a national contest in the areas.

The scope for the talents widened yesterday thanks to a renewal of a contract between The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Jim McCabe yesterday signed the deal at Sonargaon Hotel in the city on behalf of their respective organisations.

Under the deal, the organisers will call for entries from professionals and non-professionals for the contest to hunt talents in the areas of film, photography and lyrics for a period of more three years, starting from this year (2011).

Since 2008, The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank have been organising the contest "Celebrating Life," opening up the scope for anyone in the country to take part.

Over the past three years, the organisers of the contest received a total of 45,000 entries in three categories--film, photography and lyrics--that showcase various aspects of life in Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said, "We are proud to become a part of the joint initiative of showcasing Bangladesh. Through this contest Celebrating Life, we want to portray the cultural heritages and natural beauties as well as diversity of life of Bangladesh before the people."

Jim McCabe, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank said the contest has been an eye opener for a lot of people.

"Through "Celebrating Life" we will be able to see, hear, feel and appreciate Bangladesh in a new light," he said.

"It is not uncommon for people to receive accolades for excelling in banking, print/electronic media, research and development. We promote the belief that it is equally important to encourage people to pursue careers in the arts, thus



Editor & Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Jim McCabe exchange documents after signing the renewal of a contract between Standard Chartered Bank and The Daily Star at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Head of Corporate Affairs of Standard Chartered Bank Bitopi Das Chowdhury, extreme left, and Festival Coordinator of Celebrating Life Contest Rafi Hossain, extreme right, were present on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR

encouraging them to become the 'culture shapers' of the future for Bangladesh."

To patronise the quality of productions, the organisers have increased the prize money in all three areas significantly for 2011. Total prize money has increased to Tk 15.65 lakh compared to Tk 4.48 lakh earlier.

Under the initiative, Celebrating Life 2011, which is based on a theme "Celebrating the Gifts of Nature and Rivers of Bangladesh," ten winners will get prize money.

Over a dozen more will receive "Honourable Mention" awards, along with crests and certificates. Winners will be announced at the Award Giving Gala Ceremony by the end of September, 2011.

Weeklong festivals will be organised in twelve districts throughout 2011, showcasing the winning entries from the previous years' and this year's contests, said the organisers.

Film

Under the film category, four prizes

will be given in two sections--normal entrants and debut entrants.

Entrants from each section can submit works that are either a documentary or fictional piece. For debut entries, the duration of the film must not be shorter than three minutes and not be longer than 12 minutes. For another section, the duration of the film must be at least 20 minutes and not longer than 45 minutes.

The prize money for each of the normal fictional and documentary piece will be Tk 2 lakh and prize money for each of the debut fictional and documentary film will be Tk 50,000.

The winning films will be aired in Channel i and showed in Celebrating Life programmes and district tours and gala events. To encourage film making, organisers will also arrange film workshops.

Photography

The theme of photography competition for 2011 will be the same like the film category--"Celebrating the

Gifts of Nature and Rivers of Bangladesh." Entries will be needed to submit their works in CDs/DVDs and photographs should have a resolution of 2000 pixels.

Twelve prizes will be given under photography category. For first, second and third prizes, cash money with certificates and crests will be given to winners while winners from fourth to twelfth places will receive "Honourable Mentions" with certificates and crests.

Under the photography category, Tk 1 lakh, Tk 50,000 and Tk 25,000 will be given against first, second and third winners.

Winners' works will be published in a book along with other selected entries in the competition. The twelve winning entries will also be showcased in a calendar published by the Standard Chartered Bank every year.

Lyrics

Under lyrics, the organisers will give cash money with certificates and crests to first, second and third

winners.

In addition, Honourable Mentions with certificates and crests will be given to from fourth to tenth winners. Entries can be submitted in both Bangla and English.

Work of winners will be composed into songs and launched in the market in Audio Compact Disk (CD) formats. The songs will later be sung in concerts for the gala events and during twelve district level tours of the competition.

Three lifetime achievement awards for film, photography and lyric will be given to those people who are veterans in their fields.

The renewal of the deal comes at a time when a growing number of youths are showing interests to photography and film making thanks to easy access to digital devices such as portable camera.

Head of Corporate Affairs of Standard Chartered Bank Bitopi Das Chowdhury and Festival Coordinator of Celebrating Life Contest Rafi Hossain were also present on the occasion.



This child takes back water collected from Fakirerpool Water Pump in the city yesterday to Paltan area, which is facing an acute crisis of water.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Midwifery training begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, supported by United Nations Population Fund and World Health Organisation, initiated a midwifery education programme to produce competent midwives.

Under this programme, 20 faculties were trained and 60 midwives were certified, awaiting deployment in 15 upazila health complexes.

Another 50 faculties and 140 midwives will be trained by this year, says a press release yesterday.

The programme was initiated following the prime minister's commitment in MDG Summit in New York in September last year to train an additional 3,000 midwives.

Meanwhile, the first-ever "State of the World's Midwifery 2011: Delivering Health, Saving Lives" will be launched in Durban of South Africa today.

Array of artifacts stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Artifacts in Bangladesh National Museum should be displayed in context to historical progress, not characters, said experts at a seminary yesterday.

At present, the artifacts are arranged on the basis of characters of the objects which do not reflect the history properly, they said.

Bangladesh National Museum organised the discussion at its Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium as part of its steps to finalise a draft "Bangladesh National Museum Manual 2010".

The museum's Chief Consultant Firoz Mahmud said, "The museum has become a collection of objects, not a national museum."

Arranging the artifacts with progress of time is difficult but should be done to present the changes that took place in society and objects along the decades, said Firoz.

There should to be a policy in this regard, he added.

Echoing former director general of Archaeology Department Shafiqul Alam to show the progress of history, Public Administration Secretary Iqbal Mahmood said people visit not only to observe but also to get an idea of history and heritage.

On the manual, he hoped that it would help ensure accountability and transparency of the authority concerned. He also asked to incorporate a policy to hold exhibitions abroad.

The museum's Board of Trustee President M Azizur Rahman presided over the seminar while the museum's Director General Prokash Chandra Das delivered the welcome speech.

PSC WITH US COMPANY

Hasan blasts protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud yesterday in parliament blasted the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports and its member secretary for protesting signing of a production sharing contract (PSC) with an American oil company.

"They formed the national committee with some street urchins. They are now working in the country as agents of foreigners," said Hasan Mahmud while discussing the proposed budget for the next fiscal.

On Prof Anu Muhammad, the committee's member secretary and a professor of Economics, he said Anu Muhammad is not a professor of Mineral Resources. What does he know about mineral resources, questioned the minister.

The state minister distorted Anu Muhammad's name several times during the discussion.

In protest against the government's signing the PSC, the committee announced some agitation programmes including a half-day hartal in the capital on July 3.

The national committee termed the deal against interest of the country.

The government on Thursday inked the deal with ConocoPhillips for exploring oil and gas from two deep-sea blocks in the Bay of Bengal.

The US oil company won two deep-sea blocks at an offshore block bidding floated by Petrobangla in 2008.

The PSC allows exploration of the undisputed part of the blocks, covering an area of 5,158 square kilometres. The blocks are located about 280 kilometres from the port city of Chittagong.

Today's hartal in N'ganj called off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatri Odhikar Sangrakkhan Forum (forum to protect commuters' rights) last night withdrew its scheduled half-day hartal programme in Narayanganj today as bus owners fixed the Dhaka-Narayanganj route fare at Tk 27 from Tk 28.

The forum will hold a press conference today to place their other demands.

The hartal was called to press authorities concerned in realising the demand to reduce fare of buses plying in Narayanganj.

Meanwhile, police yesterday foiled an attempt by pro-hartal activists to bring out a procession from Shaheed Minar in Narayanganj.

About 60 organisations including Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), National Awami Party, Workers' Party of Bangladesh and BASD led their demonstration under the forum banner.

Anti-hartal activists, backed by former local lawmaker of Narayanganj Shamim Osman, also brought out a rally in the city yesterday.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited

Notice

Subject: Extension of application deadline for the post of Probationary Officer.

This is for information of all concerned that in partial modification of our earlier circular regarding career opportunity published on May 03, 2011 in "The Daily Star" and "The Daily Prothom Alo", the deadline for submitting application for the post of Probationary Officer has been extended upto June 30, 2011.

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to apply online alongwith a recent scanned photograph and Master/ Bachelor degree certificate (last educational certificate as applicable) to www.dutchbanglabank.com/Online_Job within the abovementioned time.

All other terms and conditions of the Circular shall remain unchanged.