

Seminar on 'Socio-economic Impact of AIDS'

100 tested HIV positive so far

Discussions at a seminar yesterday underscored the need for AIDS awareness programmes in workplaces to ensure a healthy and productive workforce and minimise socio-economic cost of the non-curable killer disease, reports UNB.

AIDS specialists signalled that an epidemic of HIV/AIDS is on the doorstep in Bangladesh and called for a partnership approach of government, NGOs and the business community to fight the disease.

So far, 100 people have been tested HIV positive in Bangladesh. Ten people got full-blown AIDS and of them, four died. But real HIV positive cases must be much higher, they said and estimated it will be not less than 100,000.

Apart from commercial sex workers, unsafe blood transfusion is another major reason for alarming spread of the disease, they said, stressing the need for intensifying awareness for safe sex and ensuring adequate blood screening arrangements in health centres.

Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the syndicate of foreign companies and joint ventures in Bangladesh, and UNAIDS, joint UN programme on HIV/AIDS, arranged the seminar on 'Socio-economic Impact of AIDS.'

BD Habibullah dead

Noted lawyer and politician BD Habibullah died of old-age complications at his Barisal residence last night at the age of 90, reports BSS.

The deceased was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and two daughters. Amanullah Aman, former managing director and chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), is the eldest son of the deceased.

tives and human resources managers on the socio-economic impact of AIDS and to carry AIDS messages to the workplace.

Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan and State Minister for Health and Family Planning Dr Amanullah were present at the seminar, chaired by FICCI president AKM Shamsuddin. Major General (ret'd) MR Chowdhury, Prof Nazrul Islam and UN Resident Coordinator David E Lockwood spoke on the occasion.

The seminar produced a joint declaration, signed jointly by Lockwood and Shamsuddin, expressing business community's responsibility to address the issue of AIDS within the community and the workplace.

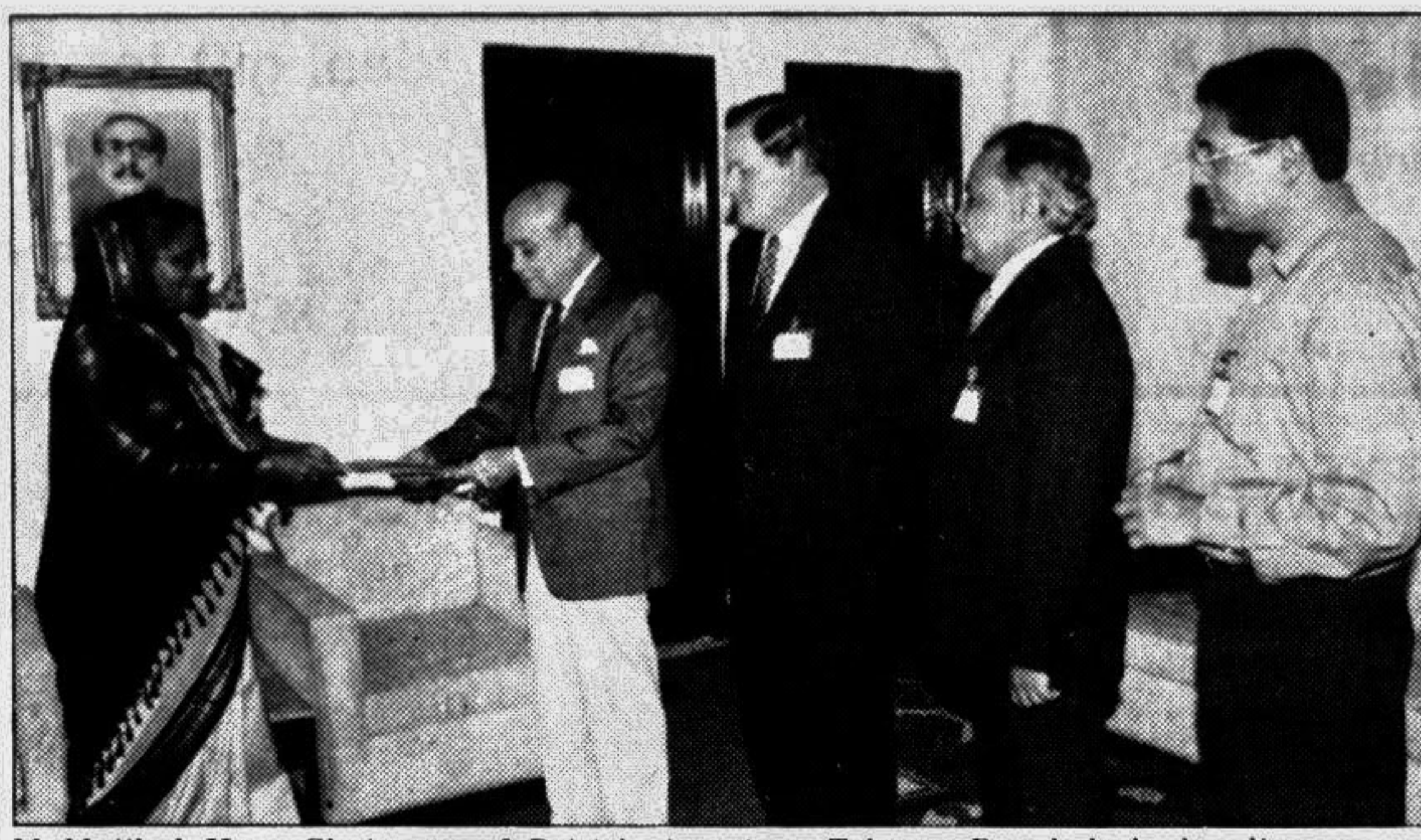
UNAIDS country programme adviser Dr A Zai, consultant of HIV/AIDS Confederation of India, Industries DR Sandhya Bhalla and executive director of Thailand Business Council on AIDS Dr Anthony Pramualratna also spoke.

The Labour Minister underlined the need for exploring AIDS awareness programmes in existing company services. "Since there is no known vaccine against AIDS and no effective medical care for HIV, raising awareness is the best alternative," Mannan said.

Chowdhury, who chairs the National Standing Committee on AIDS, depicting the frightening scenario, said although Bangladesh is still a less-prevalence country, it is surrounded by countries with high rates of HIV positive cases.

"Epidemic has already started in Bangladesh, but it's now in initial stage and still there is time to overcome," Chowdhury said. All determinants are prevailing for a massive explosion of the disease in Bangladesh, he observed.

Former secretary of National AIDS Committee Prof Nazrul Islam said 50 per cent of the STD patients are students and 80 per cent of them have contaminated from commercial sex workers.



M Mujibul Huq, Chairman of British American Tobacco Bangladesh, handing over a cheque for £50,000 to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for post-flood rehabilitation. Also present are the Company's Managing Director, Hugh Tweed, Deputy Managing Director, Golam Mainuddin, and Head of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, Mahmudur Rahman.

University Grants Commission (Amend) Bill '98 passed

Parliament Wednesday passed the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (Amendment) Bill, 1998 as amended by the standing committee, increasing the number of permanent members of the Commission to at least five from two, reports UNB.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique, piloting the bill, said the strength of the University Grants Commission needs to be increased to modernise the university curriculum, improve the standard of education and strengthen the monitoring of university activities.

In the objective of the Bill, it was stated that there were six universities in the country in 1973 and now the number of the government university has increased to 11 in addition to 16 run by the private management.

Sadique said it has become difficult for the Grants Commission with two permanent members to maintain the standard of education in 27 universities.

More storage facilities to be built at Baghabari for smooth supply of fuel oil

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 12: The authorities have taken steps to increase the storage capacity of fuel oil at Baghabari river port here for ensuring its smooth supply to the northern districts during the dry season, reports UNB.

The decision to build up more storage facilities at the port was taken at a meeting of the general managers of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, presided over by its Chairman Anwar Hossain.

The construction of new storage facilities with a capacity of 23,000 metric tons will begin soon so that the authorities can meet the demand for fuel oil in the coming season.

The sources said three diesel storage will be built, each with 7,000 metric tons of capacity. Besides, there will be two other storage for petrol and Octane with a capacity of 1,000 metric tons each.

The decision was taken to

ensure uninterrupted supply of oil in the region specially during the dry season when the supply is hindered due to the decrease of navigability in the rivers.

The farmers face a serious crisis of fuel oil particularly in the dry season due to the problem.

BPC sources said there are facilities for storing 15,000 metric tons of fuel oil at Baghabari port. These facilities are of three oil companies — Padma, Meghna and Jamuna.

Presently the authorities can store 13,000 metric tons of diesel, 1,000 metric tons of octane and another 1,000 metric tons of furnace oil at the port.

With this storage capacity, oil can be supplied in the region for only six days.

The authorities are also considering the proposal for making storage facilities in Rangpur.

British American Tobacco donates £ 50,000 to PM's Relief Fund

British American Tobacco has donated an amount of £50,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund, says a press release.

M Mujibul Huq, Chairman of British American Tobacco Bangladesh, on behalf of Martin Broughton, Chairman of British American Tobacco plc, handed over a cheque for the amount (approximately Tk 40 lakh) to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office on November 5.

A letter from Martin Broughton was also handed over to the Prime Minister.

Broughton in his letter said, "We have followed with great concern the effects of the floods that have swept across Bangladesh in the past few months and the suffering caused to the people of the country."

He went on to say that earlier British American Tobacco Bangladesh had donated Tk 10,00,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and 3.1 tonnes vegetable seeds to the Ministry of Agriculture for post-flood agricultural rehabilitation. While those were in response to an emergent situation, this amount of £50,000 was to assist the government's longer term rehabilitation programme.

Mujibul Huq was accompanied by Managing Director, Hugh Tweed, Deputy Managing Director Golam Mainuddin and Head of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs Mahmudur Rahman.

Hartal observed in Paikgachha

KHULNA, Nov 12: A half-day hartal was observed in Paikgachha thana here today to protest the attack on a BNP procession on Wednesday during 60-hour countrywide hartal, reports APB.

Vehicles were off the roads in the thana during the six-hour shutdown jointly called by the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami. Educational institutions and commercial houses also remained closed.

Japanese team reviews five projects

The visiting six-member Japanese Appraisal Mission yesterday held a meeting with government officials to assess five selected loan projects, reports APB.

Managing Director of Technical Department of OECF Masakazu Ishiguro led the Japanese side while Additional Secretary of ERD Suhel Ahmed represented the Bangladesh government.

The delegation that arrived in the city on Tuesday, explained the aims and objectives of the Japanese projects in Bangladesh with special emphasis on the requirements of the five projects.

They also held discussion on implementation procedure, duration, management, exchange rate and other important matters relating to these projects.

The Greater Faridpur Infrastructure Development and Microcredit Project also came up for discussion.

The loan-projects, involving 175 million dollar, were selected at the annual consultation meeting held on October 27-29 this year.

The Japanese delegation, during their stay in Bangladesh, will also visit Northern Rural Infrastructure Development project in Jamalpur, Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge, and Ghorasal Urea Fertiliser Factory, said a press release yesterday.

Dhaka International Trade Fair '99 Secretariat Export Promotion Bureau Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide & reputed advertising firms for the undermentioned printing work of Souvenir for Dhaka International Trade Fair '99 (DITF '99):

Printing of 4000 (four thousand) copies multicolor Souvenir on self-financing basis (collecting advertisement). Two attractive designs of the cover page will have to be submitted along with tender.

Tender should be deposited in the tender box kept at Export Promotion Bureau, 122-124, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka by 12:00 Noon on or before 23-11-98. Tender schedule can be collected from the Accounts Section of the Bureau on payment of Tk 400 (four hundred) in cash (non-refundable) during office hours up to 22-11-98. 5% of the quoted amount should be deposited as earnest money (refundable) with the tender through Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of "DITF '99 Fund." The undersigned may be contacted for further information of the work, if necessary.

Abdul Mazid Bhuiyan
Director, Export Promotion Bureau &
Member-Secretary
Souvenir Sub-Committee, DITF '99.

DFP-23570-9/11
G-2526

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy (Project - BGD/97/003)

The Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat seeks applications from Bangladeshi nationals for the following positions:

1. COMPUTER CONSULTANT (1)
Duration: 12 working months
Station: Parliament Secretariat

The Computer Consultant will work in close liaison with the National Project Director, Parliamentary Implementation Specialist and other project staffs.

- Tasks:**
- Prepare a needs assessment for hardware and software requirement.
 - Prepare hardware and software specification for procurement.
 - Prepare a report on a new Computer Training Centre with details of hardware, software and networking facilities.
 - Develop computer training modules with due regards to the differing needs of the three client groups, viz. Parliamentarians, Officers and Staffs of the Parliament Secretariat.
 - Prepare a report on deployment and use of computers and an Management Information System (MIS) for the whole of Parliamentary work areas.
 - Undertake a feasibility Study on desk top publishing of the Parliamentary proceedings, and
 - Prepare a report on use of Internet/E-mail/URLS/WWW and individual DNS allocation for Parliamentarians.

Qualifications:
The Computer consultant should have postgraduate qualification in Computer Science/Business Management/Information Science with knowledge of Information Technology. The incumbent should have evidence of preparing computerization project plans, and at least 7 years' experience of working in a computer based information system.

2. LIBRARY CONSULTANT (1)
Duration: 6 working months
Station: Parliament Secretariat

The Library Consultant would work in close liaison with the National Project Director, Parliamentary Implementation Specialist and Librarian, Parliament library.

- Task:**
- Report on existing Jatiya Sangshad Library with analysis of each activities and produce evaluation of present services.
 - Design to reorganise, to transform the present Jatiya Sangshad Library into a modern Legislative Information Centre (LIC) which would accommodate research, reference, documentation and library units.
 - Prepare a full computerisation plan for the above LIC for providing services which would be responsive and user-friendly.
 - Prepare a complete systems requirement plan with recommendations of appropriate library and information software, hardware and on-line networking.
 - Recommend means and systems for digitising parliamentary proceedings, reports, national reports and other global reports of relevance for instant retrieval at any network computers.
 - Recommend means and systems for scanning and/or microfilming library materials which cannot be otherwise digitised.
 - Recommend appropriate system of speedy retrospective catalogue conversion by automatic catalogue data input (from library of Congress/British Library catalogue), and/or by sub-contracting.
 - Develop TOR for sub-contracting, if necessary, for retrospective catalogue conversion.
 - Oversee sub-contracting.
 - Recommend list of required publications for procurement, and
 - Oversee installation and initial operation of all automated library operation.

Qualifications:
Advanced academic and qualifications with at least seven years' experience in computerized libraries in important positions preferably with experience of library computerization in Bangladesh/abroad. Must demonstrate evidence of understanding the latest Information Technology (IT) and its use; preferably with experience in report writing for similar works.

3. INTERIOR DESIGN SPECIALIST (1)
Duration: 6 working months
Station: Parliament Secretariat

The Interior Design Specialist would work with the National Project Director, Parliamentary Implementation Specialist, IPS personnel and other project staffs.

- Tasks:**
- Conduct a needs assessment report on the interior design and decorations of Parliament building and the IPS
 - Prepare design of the interior decorations of the Parliament building in accordance with the culture, tradition and history of the country.
 - Organize a competition in each of the 6 divisions to provide artifices, e.g., wall hangings for the interior decoration of the Parliament building.
 - Organize exchange programme of arts and crafts work with the other democratic countries.
 - Prepare a workplan for continuous display of artworks within the Parliament building.
 - Recommend permanent interior design to make the building to have a human face and an atmosphere helping to relieve stress and tension, and
 - Provide a necessary landscaping support.

Qualifications:
The Interior design Specialist will have qualifications and experience in Interior Designing. The incumbent must provide evidence of performing similar tasks in large buildings of commercial, office or other nature.

4. TRAINING CONSULTANT (1)
Duration: 12 working months
Station: Parliament Secretariat

The Training Consultants will be involved on a full time basis for one year maintaining close liaison with the National Project Director, Project Implementation Specialist and other project staffs.

- Tasks:**
- Assess training needs with due regards to various aspects including use of computer.
 - Develop separate training modules directed at three levels: MPs, Parliament Secretariat Officers and the Staff.
 - Organize workshops and seminars to determine further training need.
 - Organize workshops and seminars for MPs with the civil society members for Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy.
 - Organize study tours, fellowship programme for MPs, IPS and Parliament Secretariat Personnel.
 - Initiate training courses on a continuous basis, and
 - Organize training of trainers for IPS.

Qualifications:
The incumbent should have postgraduate qualification in Development Administration. The persons appointed must be senior position holders in this field. There should be proven track record of at least ten years with evidence of understanding parliamentary business.

5. CONSULTANT FOR COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE (1)
Duration: 30 working months
Station: Parliament Secretariat

The Consultant for Committee on Rules of Procedure will work in close liaison with the Chairman, Committee on Rules of Procedures, Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament, National Project Director, Parliamentary Implementation Specialist, International Parliamentary Experts and other project personnel.

- Tasks:**
- Study the debates of the Parliament of Bangladesh and the existing Rules of Procedure and produce a comprehensive book on parliamentary practice and procedure in the Jatiya Sangsad following the pattern of similar books in other Parliaments.
 - Review the Rules of Procedure/Standing Orders of Parliaments in other countries and make recommendation to the Committee on Rules of Procedure on incorporation, if necessary, of new procedure in the Jatiya Sangsad for a more effective performance on its functions.
 - Prepare monographs on each of the Parliamentary Committees outlining their constitution, functions and procedure as well as on major parliamentary devices through which a motion can reach floor of the House for debate.
 - Advise the Speaker through Secretary, Parliament on procedural matters and issues regarding rules and train up a group of core parliamentary officials as procedural experts.

Qualifications:
The incumbent should have a Master's Degree with working experience on the functioning Parliament for a period of not less than 10 years. Evidence of understanding the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and the constitutional framework of the State is essential. Knowledge of procedure in other parliaments will be an added qualification.

Applications should be marked confidential and include a cover letter and two copies of applicant's curriculum vitae. No copies of references, certificates or professional papers should be submitted at this time. Applications should be sent to the National Project Director, (Ref.: BGD/97/003-Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy Project), C/O Manager, Human Resources, UNDP, House No 60, Rd # 11A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka 1209 no later than 28 November 1998. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Note: Any attempt to influence the process of selection will result in the immediate termination of the candidate's application.

WOMEN ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY