

Lift ban on support to UNFPA

Partners urges US

BSS, Dhaka

Partners in Population and Development, known as Partners, have urged the United States to lift its ban on the support to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

The Bush administration recently decided not to pay its 34 million dollars annual contribution to the UNFPA because of its belief that UNFPA is using the fund to finance China for its one-child policy and abortion programs.

The Partners, an intergovernmental alliance of 19 developing countries, regretted the decision.

6 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered six firearms, four other weapons and two rounds of bullet from across the country, in 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

They arrested seven persons and filed four cases under the arms act in connection with the arms recovery, a police press release said.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan police recovered three explosives and filed a case after arresting two persons in this connection.

Besides, police arrested 1220 persons including 553 warrantees, 657 accused in different cases under investigation and one identified criminal during the period. The identified criminal is Barkat Ali of Dhaka city.

sion of the US government saying that it would produce negative impact on the international population and development programmes and the South-South collaboration.

A strategic ally of the UNFPA, the Partners was established at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 with extensive influence and support from UNFPA.

China is the current chairman of the Partners which comprises Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

While calling upon the international community, private foundations and governments to

urge the United States to lift its ban on the support to UNFPA, the Partners said the move of the Bush administration was undoubtedly a "huge obstacle" to the activities of its member countries which rely so much on support from the UNFPA.

The Partners noted that the alliance benefits from China's tremendous experiences and from each other by sharing best practices, tested strategies and models in developing countries.

Besides, the vast experience of its member countries is used to improve lives of poor women and men residing in these countries through South-South collaboration. The negative approach of the US government towards the UNFPA would drastically affect the South.

Bangladesh wins C'wealth Youth Award

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive Commonwealth Youth Award-2002 for its successful project on youth development.

Bangladesh has been selected for the award among 54 member states of the Commonwealth.

A special representative of the Commonwealth Secretary General will hand over the award to State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal today.

Filling station employee robbed of Tk 1.18 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of a filling station in the city was robbed of Tk 1,18,715 in broad daylight yesterday.

Abdul Latif of Javed Filling Station along with another employee were on way to the Janata Bank to deposit the amount when a gang of muggers stabbed him and snatched the money in Bangla Motor area at around 10.30am.

The muggers took them to a lane nearby at gunpoint and took away the money from Latif after stabbing him in his hands.



Guardians wait outside the Viharunisa Noon School & College as their daughters sat for the admission test of the college yesterday.

Rural road project helps empower women

WB report on good governance says

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank's Rural Roads and Markets Improvement Project has successfully pioneered a participatory approach involving women in identifying and designing rural development work.

The World Bank, in a recent report on good governance, said the project has led to internationalisation of participatory processes by Local Government and Engineering Department.

"Most significantly, women are being consulted on such matters as the location and design of rural markets with a view to facilitating their participation in trading," the report said.

The WB said Bangladesh exceeded almost all the targets in economic and social fields set under its 141.40 million-dollar Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project.

The project work included rehabilitation of about 606 km of

feeder roads, improvement of 137 growth centre markets, 15 rural markets and 35 ghats, construction of 47,000 metres of structures on rural roads and flood damage rehabilitation of 915 km of roads.

Project task leader from the Bank K M Maqsoodul Mannan told BSS that the project interventions had significantly contributed to the removal of physical bottlenecks, improved quality, reduced costs in rural transport and increased marketing facilities for agricultural project.

A study on the socio-economic impact of the project by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies said that before road development, the incidence of female employment was rather low, but it rose up to 83.3 per cent in one-year time. Almost all the incremental employment took place in the service sector involving housemaid jobs, teaching, midwifery and tailoring.

Sources said about 2,400 person-years of employment for des-

titute women have been created by the project. For civil work, 23,000 person-years of employment have been created by the project.

In the growth centre markets, about 500 women have been provided with shops in women's corner. In addition, about 4,000 rural destitute women are currently engaged in the off-pavement maintenance activities and roadside plantation in the project area.

CMP asked to prepare new list of criminals

BSS, Chittagong

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has directed the CMP authorities to prepare a new list of criminals, extortionists and drug racketeers and launch a combing operation immediately to nab anti-socials irrespective of political affiliation.

Amir Khosru, also the minister in charge of Chittagong district, gave the directive while addressing a law and order review meeting in the conference room of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) on Friday night.

High police officials, including CMP Commissioner Mohammad Shahidullah Khan, were present at

the meeting. "Discharge your duties without any fear or favour and arrest the mischief-makers and even those who try to influence you in favour of criminals," the minister said.

Amir Khosru said that the government would no longer tolerate negligence of duties in improving law and order.

The commerce minister said that government has given top priority to the issue of law and order to establish a safe and peaceful society to fulfil the aspirations of people.

Khoshroz Kitab Mahal to export Quran, religious books to India

UNB, Dhaka

Khoshroz Kitab Mahal, a pioneering publishing organisation of the country, will export copies of the holy Quran and other religious books worth about 3 crore rupees to neighbouring India.

An agreement was signed between Khoshroz Kitab Mahal and the Indian importing organisation, KB International, in this regard at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission office in Kolkata recently.

According to the agreement, the copies of the holy Quran and other religious books will have to be exported by December 30, 2003.

Khoshroz Kitab Mahal published the holy Quran in Bengali and English in 26 various types and sizes, said a press release.



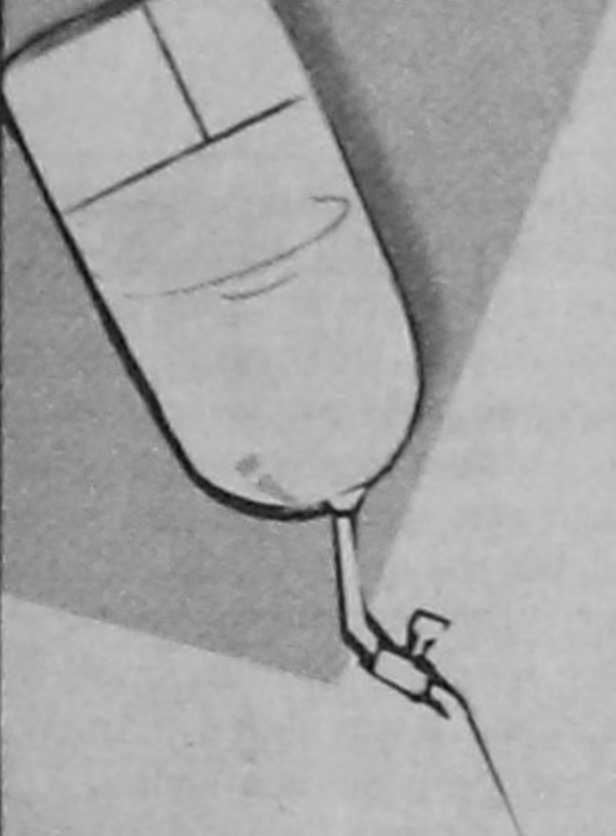
New committee of Star Press Sramik Union formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star Press Sramik-Karmachari Union has formed a five-member executive committee for 2002-2004 with MA Mannan and Zakir Hossain Molla as its president and general secretary respectively.

The committee was formed unanimously at a meeting held at the daily's office yesterday with outgoing president of the union Abul Hashem in the chair.

The three other office-bearers are Md Selim - vice-president, Md Raju Ahmed - assistant general secretary, and Md Solaiman Hossain - treasurer.



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<p>Admission Test for MBA & MCA programs: 23 August 2002</p> <p>No Admission Test for MA</p> <p>Admission Test for Undergraduate programs: 30 August 2002</p>	<p>EAST WEST UNIVERSITY</p> <p>45-46 Mohakhali C/A</p> <p>Phone: 9887989, 9882308 Ext: 234</p> <p>E-mail: admissions@ewubd.edu</p>
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unicef

Vacancy Notice

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals for its field location at Mymensingh to fill in the position mentioned below:

Assistant Project Officer, Field Operations
Location: Mymensingh

Nature of responsibilities:

Be the advocate for the implementation of CRC and CEDAW. Establish and strengthen inter-district networks with the development partners to promote strategies and activities that prevent the violation of CRC and CEDAW. Coordinate the development of detailed district plans of action for the progressive (starting with the WSC goals) implementation of CRC and CEDAW. Mobilize sub-national development partners (Divisional and District level official, elected representatives, NGOs, private sector, service groups and community leaders) to help achieve the objectives of CRC and CEDAW. Follow-up and monitor the implementation of the District plan of action and provide regular feed back to supervisor and programme section on areas where support is required and the limitations and strengths of the existing programme policies and design. Ensure that all national events (NIDs, Sanitation week, CRC week etc) are effectively organized and observed. Be responsible for the end use monitoring of UNICEF (and donor) inputs and liquidation of all cash advances any other task assigned by the supervisor.

The ideal candidate should have:

- At least bachelor degree. Preferences will be given to degree in areas related to social sciences (sociology, anthropology, economics, rural development, and demography), public health and medical sciences, administration and management and engineering.
- Minimum 2 years of work experience in social development field. Experience of work with government NGOs, rural development academies desirable.
- Proven experience in planning, networking, logistics, mobilising sub-national infrastructure desirable.
- Proven experience in areas of community participation and organization an added advantage.
- Proven ability in areas of community participation and organization an added advantage.
- Good analytical, negotiating and advocacy skills.
- Excellent English writing and communication skills.
- Presentation skills both written and verbal.
- Knowledge of computer management and applications.

Remuneration:

Starting remuneration at NOA grade level.

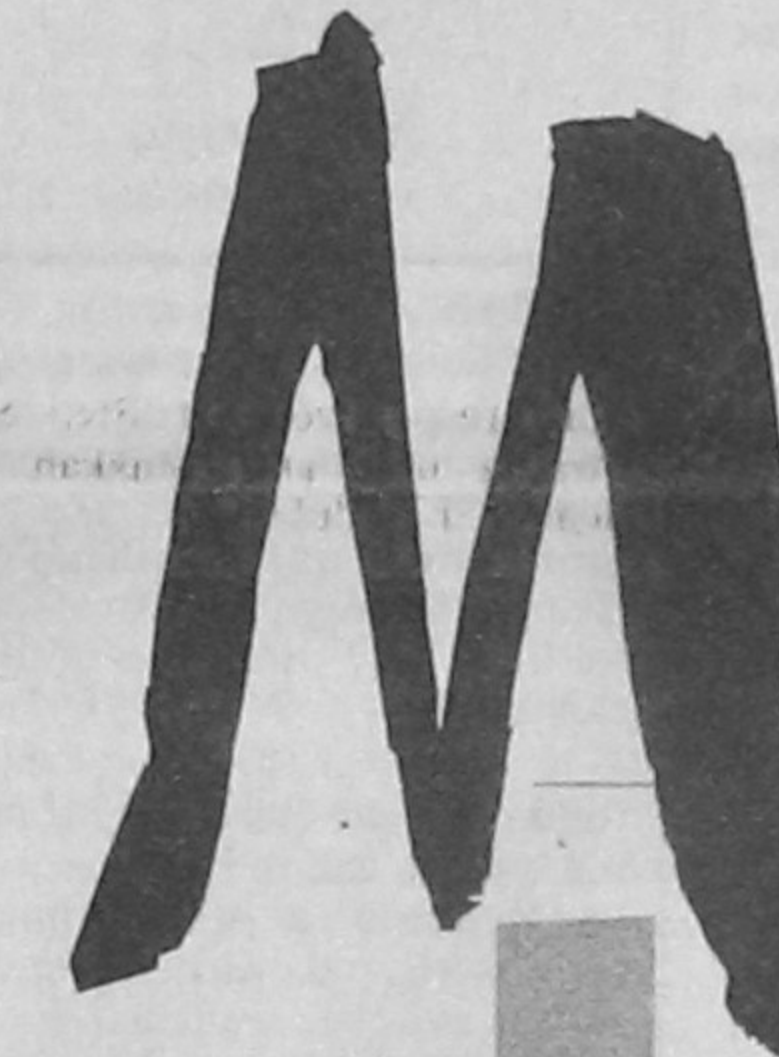
Applications with CV and recent passport size photographs should be forwarded to the Chief of Human Resources Section, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Sheraton Annex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, by 15 August 2002. Please write on the envelope "Assistant Project Officer (Mymensingh)". Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Any form of canvassing, soliciting or influencing will be treated as a disqualification.

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