

## Nepali anti-graft body to grill another 21

AFP, Kathmandu

Another 21 people are to be grilled by Nepal's anti-graft panel over a scandal involving embezzlement of state funds, an official said yesterday.

The Royal Commission for Corruption Control (RCCC), formed by King Gyanendra soon after he seized power last month, has served notice on 21 people it claims received government money to pay for personal and political party celebrations during the Hindu festival of Dashain last October.

Another six people were being sought in connection with the incident, in which some 4.1 million rupees (57,746 dollars) was allegedly siphoned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to private individuals and political leaders.

They would be summoned to appear before the panel once traced, a commission official said requesting anonymity.

Six former ministers in Nepal's sacked government have already appeared before the panel, which has powers equivalent to a court of law, on charges of embezzlement.

They have been freed on bail and are due to appear before the com-

mission again on March 31.

The four-party coalition government led by Sher Bahadur Deuba was sacked by Gyanendra on February 1 when he assumed absolute power and declared emergency rule.

Gyanendra dismissed the Deuba government for what he said was its failure to maintain peace and law and order and hold general elections in the Himalayan kingdom, which has been gripped since 1996 by a Maoist revolt.

The power grab has been widely condemned internationally, with India and Britain freezing military aid.

State radio, meanwhile, said Birendra Kumar Karma, a judge in western Pyuthan district, had been arrested after he was caught allegedly taking a bribe of 20,000 rupees (281 dollars).

"The Chief District Officer of Pyuthan, Ram Prasad Ghimire, arrested judge Karma while he was (allegedly) receiving the bribe Wednesday afternoon," the radio said.

It said Karma would be presented before the RCCC office in Kathmandu after completion of initial investigations.



Pakistani actress Meera (C) offers prayers with Indian film maker Mahesh Bhatt (R) at the Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi (memorial) at Rajghat in New Delhi yesterday. Meera arrived Wednesday in India to take part in a joint Indian-Pakistani Peace March which was flagged off from New Delhi and is scheduled to end in Multan, Pakistan. The march is aimed at promoting peace between the two neighbours with a slogan of "Stop Funding Hate".

## US, India talk military deal amid warming relations

AFP, Washington

India's chief of naval staff Admiral Arun Prakash, who is on a US visit, discussed purchase of American equipment and systems as part of stepped up defence cooperation, it was announced here Wednesday.

Details of the purchase were not announced but New Delhi had said this week that a contract was likely to be signed for the purchase of submarine rescue vehicles.

India is also reportedly working out a deal for the purchase of 10 retrofitted Lockheed Martin P3C Orion long-range naval maritime spy aircraft to plug gaps in reconnaissance capability.

Prakash, on a 10-day visit to the United States since March 19, held talks with top defence officials "which focused on ways to further India-US naval cooperation including joint exercises and acquisition of US equipment and systems for the Indian Navy," the Indian embassy

said in a statement.

"Both sides reiterated their determination to strengthen all aspects of defence cooperation in the context of the transformed India-US relationship," it said.

"The two sides reaffirmed that the bilateral relationship has been on a steadily ascendant trajectory in recent years and has gained greater strategic content," the embassy said.

India's vice chief of naval staff Yashwant Prasad told reporters in New Delhi this week that the two countries were in intense negotiations and likely to sign a contract for US cover for Indian submarines in distress and for the purchase of submarine rescue vehicles by the year end.

India and the United States had almost finalised a contract for the US navy to rescue Indian submarines in distress when US sanctions following New Delhi's nuclear tests in 1998 derailed the deal, Prasad had said.

The supply of submarine rescue

vehicles along with flying kits and P3C Orions would be the second largest defence deal between the two countries in recent years, news reports have said.

Military relations between India and the United States, on opposite sides during the Cold War, have thawed in recent years with both nations holding a series of joint defence exercises over the last 18 months.

India played a key back-up role in US-led relief efforts following the December 26 tsunami disaster that hit a dozen countries along the Indian Ocean and left more than 270,000 dead.

"The US side welcomed the excellent cooperation between the two countries in organising relief operations during the recent tsunami disaster and expressed admiration for the speed and scale on which India deployed its naval and air assets in this effort," the statement said.

## Woman, children killed in US attack on Taliban

REUTERS, Kabul

US-led troops killed three Taliban militants in a firefight in which two children and a woman also died in southeast Afghanistan, the US military said.

Another child died in a separate gunbattle east of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Among the dead militants was a Taliban commander named Raz Mohammad, who was implicated in many of the attacks against coalition forces in southeastern Paktika province, according to a US military statement issued late on Wednesday.

The military said fighting broke out on Tuesday and US-led forces came under intense fire as they arrived in Mohammad's village in Paktika, which borders Pakistan.

The militants, children and

woman died during the fighting. An Afghan soldier was also killed, the US military said.

Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi confirmed Raz Mohammad's death but had a different version of the encounter. He said the Taliban killed eight US soldiers and that Mohammad and seven members of his family were killed in an attack from the air.

A US warplane killed five militants on Tuesday in the southeastern province of Khost, close to the Pakistan border.

To the northeast, in Kunar province, a village boy was killed on Wednesday in a shootout involving US troops and militants.

A US military statement said the troops had opened fire after flushing out a suspected bombmaker and two other armed men in a village close to Kunar's provincial capital,

Asadabad.

A Taliban-inspired insurgency has been most active in the south and east, but attacks dwindled after the failure to disrupt last October's presidential election.

The onset of spring was expected to herald an increase in Taliban activity, as the country prepares for parliamentary elections on Sept. 18.

Nato's top military commander, General James Jones of the US Marines, noting how the threat from al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters had faded in the past three years, said on Wednesday that security forces are not facing an organised insurgency.

Jones characterised the security situation as stable but that the country remained prone to random acts of violence as it moved toward democracy following the ousting of the Taliban militia in late 2001.

## Naga rebel factions clash in India

AFP, Guwahati

At least three Naga tribal rebels died Thursday in a fierce gunbattle that erupted between two rival guerrilla groups in India's northeastern state of Nagaland, police said.

Rebels belonging to the NSCN (Isak-Muiwah) faction swooped down at dawn Thursday on a camp belonging to the rival NSCN (Khaplang) group in Surohuto, 190km north of Nagaland's state capital Kohima, a police spokesman said.

"The fighting is still going on. Sixty members from NSCN's Isak-Muiwah cadre attacked a rival camp with automatic weapons," the spokesman, Muthasuyi Chakesang, told AFP by phone from Nagaland's district headquarters of Zunheboto.

Kidhalo Mulatohu, a senior leader of the NSCN (Khaplang) group, said they had repulsed the attack and killed 10 militants.

## Global TB campaign making headway

AFP, Paris

Global efforts to overcome tuberculosis are making gradual headway but serious problems remain in tackling the disease in Africa and among people with the Aids virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday.

In an annual update, the UN agency said that in 2003 - the latest year for which figures are available - there were around 8.8 million new cases of TB.

However, this is only an estimate, for only 3.9 million of the cases were formally diagnosed by lab test. Of these, 674,000 also had the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a phenomenon that shows the worry-

ing coexistence between TB and HIV.

Half of the new cases occurred in six Asian countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Around 1.7 million people died of TB in 2003, including those co-infected with HIV, the report said.

"In 2003, the TB incidence rate was falling or stable in five out of six WHO regions, but growing at 1.0 percent globally," it said.

"The exception is Africa, where incidence has been rising more quickly in countries with higher HIV prevalence rates... But for the strongly adverse trends in Africa, prevalence and death rates would be falling more quickly worldwide."



Indian school children take part in a tuberculosis awareness run on the occasion of the World Tuberculosis Day in New Delhi yesterday. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that some 3.54 million Indians are infected by tuberculosis.

## Kashmir councillors to get more security

Militants kill 5

AFP, Srinagar

Suspected Islamic militants shot dead five people in Indian Kashmir as authorities decided to upgrade the security of newly-elected municipal councillors under threat from rebels, officials said yesterday.

Two Muslims were gunned down in separate incidents in the northern district of Baramulla, a police spokesman said.

He said three more Muslims were shot dead in the districts of Poonch, Anantnag and Pulwama overnight and Thursday.

"Police are investigating why they were killed," the spokesman said.

None of the dozen or so rebel groups fighting to secede Kashmir from India has claimed responsibility for the five killings.

Rebels have been targeting pro-India politicians and people they suspect of working for Indian troops. Most of the rebels want to make Kashmir part of Pakistan, but

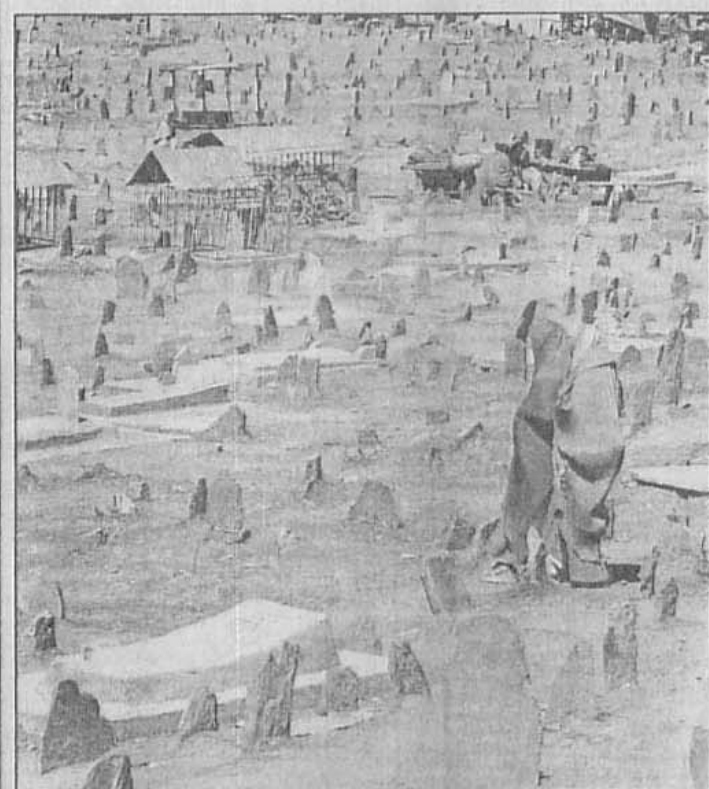
somewant to make it independent.

The killings came as a senior Indian Kashmir minister announced that municipal councillors would get more security and protected government accommodation.

"Every councillor of the state (perceived to be under threat) will be provided with more security and accommodation at safer places in the respective district headquarters," home minister Abdul Rehman Veeri said in a statement.

Municipal polls were held in Indian Kashmir earlier this year after a gap of 27 years that was due partly to the ongoing Islamic insurgency but also due to the previous ruling party's fears of creating a rival power base.

Guerrillas bombed rallies and killed candidates, party workers and elected officials to scuttle the elections. Those killed included the frontrunner for the Srinagar mayor job, three councillors and two candidates.



Burqa-clad Afghan women walk past graves at a Muslim cemetery in Kabul yesterday. The Afghan government is spearheading an arms-for-amnesty offer for Taliban fighters who have been waging an insurgency since the hardline Islamic regime was toppled in late 2001 but the revolt rumbles on.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT Master of Development Studies (MDS) 2005-2006

Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka invites application from candidates in prescribed form for admission into two-year Master of Development Studies (MDS) Programme for 2005-2006 session. The programme features are as follows:

- Total 60 credit hours with 12 modular units
- An internship programme with dissertation
- Classes from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Admission is open to individuals who have at least a Bachelor with Honours degree or equivalent from any recognized university or a four-year graduation degree from other institutions such as Medical Colleges, Engineering Universities/Colleges etc. No candidate with Third Division / Class will be eligible to apply.

Admission materials should be collected from the Office of the Department of Development Studies from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 on every working day on payment of Tk.500 (Five hundred). Filled-in application form along with necessary documents must be submitted to the Departmental Office by April 27<sup>th</sup> 2005. Written test will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 4:00 PM.

Contact address: Chairperson, Department of Development Studies, Room No. 5010, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arts Building, University of Dhaka. Tel: 9661900-73/ Ext 6520. GD-205

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

HIVAIDS and STD Alliance Bangladesh (HASAB), a national NGO working in the field of HIV and AIDS invites application from suitable candidates for the position of MIS Officer for "Promoting Rights of the Extreme Socially Excluded People" Project.

**Main task and responsibilities :** The incumbent will be responsible to set up MIS to generate and submit routine report, look after project Monitoring and Evaluation, design survey questionnaire, data entry template, data processing and analyzing. Coordinate/conduct the baseline survey, midterm survey and final evaluation to be carried out by the external independent agency. Conduct operation research and capacity assessment of the Self-Help Group and NGOs.

**Qualifications & experiences:** Masters in any discipline (Preferable Social Science, Law or Statistics) with 5-8 years working experience in the development fields. Expertise on computer software SPSS, Epi-info, MS-Access, MS-Excel, MS word, and MS-Power Point etc. are essential. IT skilled personnel will be preferred.

**Remuneration:** Monthly remuneration is Tk. 25,000 plus other admissible benefits as per HASAB's policies and procedures.

Bangladeshi national who fulfills the prerequisites are requested to apply with a copy of passport size photograph and curriculum vitae detailing relevant experience and qualification and current telephone number (if any). Applicants are requested to submit with a covering letter highlighting qualifications and interests for the position on or before 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 to the Executive Director, HASAB, 4/1, Iqbal road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

Capable female candidates are encourage to apply

ACID SURVIVORS FOUNDATION (ASF) is a non-government organization working on protection and promotion of human rights of the acid survivors. It also works with government, NGOs and civil society to stop acid violence. ASF is unique organization addressing this issue from a holistic approach and becoming a role model to address violence against women, children and men. ASF seeks applications from qualified candidates to fill up the following positions based in Dhaka:

• **Accounts and Admin Coordinator - Medical unit:** The position is responsible for day to day management of financial and administrative matter of the medical unit of the Foundation for ensuring smooth implementation of medical components and providing inputs to the senior management for establishing internal controls. The candidate should have: - ♦ Commerce background preferably CA with at least 3 years working experience, capable in independently handling of accounts of a project. ♦ Strong interpersonal communication skills with team building capacity ♦ Strong leadership and managerial skill ♦ Excellent computer skill in handling accounting software with language proficiency in English & Bangla. ♦ Ability to prioritize tasks, delegates and meet deadlines. ♦ Consolidated salary is Tk. 20,000 per month plus other benefits offered by the organization.

• **Human Resource Officer:** The position is responsible for day to day implementation of Human Resource management functions. The responsibilities include maintaining attendance, leave, organizational disciplines, staff selection and recruitment, job description review and performance evaluation and human resource development to ensure that the organization achieve its mission and objectives. The candidate should have: - ♦ Master degree in the relevant field from a recognized university preferably with a Diploma in Personnel Management. ♦ 2 years of relevant work experience with satisfactory service to assist in implementation of human resource functions. ♦ Strong interpersonal communication and negotiation skill ♦ Excellent computer skill with language proficiency in English & Bangla. ♦ Ability to prioritize tasks, delegate and meet deadlines. She need to be highly motivated, self-starter and able to work in a team with little supervision. ♦ Consolidated salary: Tk. 15,000 per month plus other benefits offered by the organization.

• **Program Officer :** The position is responsible to carry out prevention activities for combating acid violence all over Bangladesh. The responsibilities include networking and capacity building of NGOs who in turn will carry out prevention activities. The candidate should have: - ♦ Masters in any relevant Social Science from a recognized university with at least 3 years working experience in the area of capacity building for advocacy and campaign for uplifting human rights of the marginalized people. ♦ Knowledge on gender, women's rights and violence against women issues. ♦ Competent in facilitation, networking and coordination. ♦ Analytical report writing skill. ♦ Strong inter-personal communication skills. ♦ Capable to do extensive field work. ♦ Computer competency and Bangla typing is essential ♦ Consolidated salary: Tk. 15,000 per month plus other benefits offered by the organization.

• **Program Officer :** The position is responsible to develop and implement training programs/ orientation course for health professionals at local level and to obtain permission from the relevant authority for visiting doctors. The incumbent will have to develop network & maintain liaison with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, NIPORT, District hospitals and Thana Health Complex and office of the civil surgeons to implement this program. The candidate should have: - ♦ Masters in any relevant field or the equivalent degree with an experience in working with the hospitals or health institution. ♦ Strong interpersonal communication skills and knowledge on government mechanism for training of health professionals is must. ♦ Capable to do extensive field work. ♦ Consolidated salary is Tk. 15,000 per month plus the benefits offered by the organization.

• **Project Officer:** The position is responsible to assist Manager- Medical Unit to develop system and services for smooth running of the medical unit and for day to day administration, writing reports & minutes, maintain liaison with medical professionals, identify gaps and training needs of medical staff and helping in developing training programs for support staff. She need to be highly motivated, self-starter and able to work in a team with little supervision. The candidate should have: - ♦ Bachelor in any relevant field preferably social science with excellent Bangla & English language proficiency; ♦ Competency in coordination, decision making, writing analytical reports. ♦ Ability to prioritize tasks and meet deadlines. ♦ Consolidated salary Tk. 10,000 per month plus other benefits offered by the organization.

• **Nurse:** This position is responsible to provide nursing care to the acid burn patients. Maintain records and liaison with the nurse in charge and duty doctor to update the treatment progress of the patients. The candidate should have working experience with the burn patient and experience in working in OT is desirable. The candidate should have: - ♦ Minimum Diploma in Nursing from a recognized institute with 2 years clinical experience. ♦ Consolidated salary is Tk. 6,000 per month plus the benefits offered by the organization.

• **Store Keeper:** The position holder will be responsible for day to day store management of medical unit which includes smooth maintenance of drugs, equipment, instrument and other hospital supplies. The candidate should have: - ♦ Bachelor degree preferably commerce background with at least 1 year work experience in the similar position. ♦ Good record keeping skills, ability to maintain accuracy in inventory management and control. ♦ Consolidated salary: Tk. 6,000 per month plus the benefits offered by the organization.

• **Driver :** This position is responsible to drive & day to day maintenance of the vehicle. The candidate should have: - ♦ valid driving license with 3 years work experience in the national or international organization ♦ Mechanical knowledge in maintaining the vehicle is essential. ♦ Consolidated salary: Tk. 6,000 per month plus other benefits offered by the organization

• **Office Attendant:** This position is responsible to provide day to day administrative support to the staff to ensure smooth functioning of ASF activities including collecting bills and its payment, mail dispatch, maintaining cleanliness the office premises, prepare and serve tea/coffee to the visitors, provide over all photocopy services and assist in maintaining store and building repair and maintenance. The candidate should have: - ♦ S.S.C with 1 year work experience in the relevant area. ♦ Knowledge on handling office equipment will be counted as an advantage. ♦ Consolidated salary: Tk. 4,000 per month plus other benefits offered by the organization

(ASF is an equal opportunity employer)

Applications with a Passport size photograph are requested to forward to the Manager -HR & Admin, Acid Survivors Foundation, House-12, Road-22, Block-K, Banani, Dhaka on or before 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005. (Please mention the position on the envelope)

Be a proud member of ASF