

VGF CARD IN PABNA

Ultra-poor deprived as 'political men' preferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Many ultra-poor people in Atghoria upazila under Pabna district have been deprived of the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme as most the 1,500 names in the recently prepared list were included allegedly under political considerations.

Some 250 new names were included in the VGF list in each of five unions and the municipality area under Atghoria upazila while the local lawmaker signed the lists, sources said.

Demanding inclusion of their names in the VGF list, several hundred ultra-poor

people, who were dropped from the new VGF list, staged demonstration in front of the UNO office on Wednesday.

Officials and UP chairmen, however, said they have nothing to do in this regard as the new list was recommended by the local MP.

Sujon and Mamun, sons of local AL leader Azizul Bishwas of village Jumaikhiri in Atghoria upazila, possessed VGF cards although they are traders and not so poor, locals said.

Eman of the same village also got VGF card although he is an established farmer and cultivated at least 15 bigha of land this year, they said.

Similar condition would

be found in all the unions and the municipality area of the upazila as many ultra-poor people have been left out of the new list while the AL men have got VGF cards under political consideration, sources said.

"Recently we have a got a list signed by Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu, the MP from Pabna-4 constituency. Most of the names in this list have been included under political consideration," Md Shahidul Islam Shahid, acting UP chairman of Debottor union parishad in Atghoria upazila, said yesterday.

"Deprived vulnerable and ultra-poor people of my

union come to me for VGF cards but I have nothing to do," he said.

"Earlier union parishad chairmen and members prepared the VGF list. But new names have been included in the list with the order of the local MP. So the problem cannot be solved without changing the list," said Atghoria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Masudul Haque.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent yesterday failed to contact lawmaker Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu over cell phone as his cell phone was found switched off.

BALLOT SNATCHING

Hearing of case against ex-MP Ilyas today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hearing on the charge sheet filed against Sylhet district BNP convener and former lawmaker Ilyas Ali and 47 others will be held at the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court today.

Earlier on March 29, police filed the charge sheet against Ilyas, Biswanath upazila parishad Vice-chairman Gous Khan and 46 others of Biswanath upazila BNP for snatching ballot papers from police two days after the December 29 parliament polls, court sources said.

Biswanath upazila BNP Vice President Sohail Ahmed Chowdhury and expatriate BNP leader Gous Khan are also among the charge-sheeted people.

Thirty-two people had been made prosecution witnesses in the case.

Gous Khan, who was later elected vice-chairman of Biswanath upazila parishad, is now staying in the UK.

Defeating Ilyas Ali, grand alliance nominee and UK chapter AL Joint Secretary Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury was elected from Sylhet-2 constituency comprising Biswanath and Balaganj upazilas on December 29 polls. Two ballot papers were recovered from a paddy field behind Dohalia Government Primary School on December 31.

Ilyas raised allegation of irregularities and took away the ballot papers from a police officer the same night. Several hundred BNP men gathered for protest, but police foiled it. Fourteen days after the incident, ASI Syed Md Abdul Mannan of Biswanath Police Station on 14 January night filed a case accusing 300 unnamed people and 50 other named ones including Ilyas. Immediately five people were caught. They later got bail.

Ilyas and the other accused were granted bail from the High Court.

Names of two FIR-listed persons had been dropped from the charge sheet. They are Abdul Mumin Khan and Mashuk Miah.

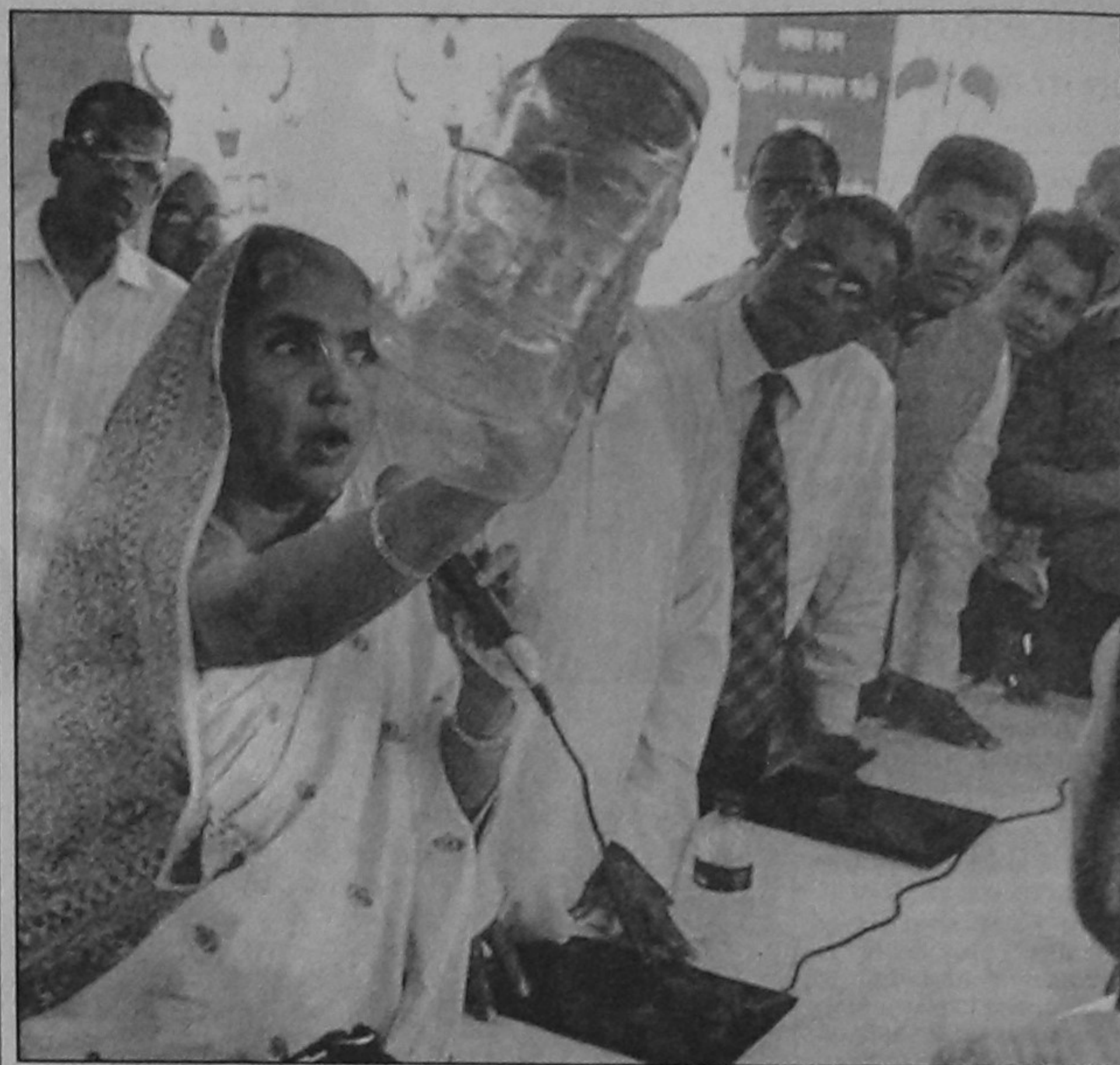


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH
Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury distributes environment-friendly pheromone insect traps among the farmers in Nakla upazila under Sherpur district yesterday.

Villagers attack police in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira.

A police team came under attack by the villagers as they went to arrest an accused in a robbery case at Noongola village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The villagers confined the policemen in a house and damaged the motorcycle of Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdul Bari of Sadar Police Station and took away his mobile phone set, sources said.

On information, police personnel from Satkhira district headquarters reached the spot, rescued the policemen and arrested four villagers, sources added.

The arrestees are Azibar Rahman, Asadul Haque, Abdul Mannan and Abdul Ahad.

Police sources said a police team led by SI Abdul Bari went to Noongola village to arrest Azibar Rahman, son of Saka Uddin of Noongola.

Failing to arrest Azibar, they arrested his brother Mujibar Rahman.

When the law enforcers were returning to the police station along with Mujibar, villagers swooped on them.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station, confirmed the incident.

Ill-equipped Sundarbans Forest Division insecure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Recurrent incidents of robbery, arms looting and abduction by robbers of the Sundarbans and pirates of coastal belts leave four ranges under Sundarbans Forest Division (SFD) highly vulnerable.

The question of security for forest officials and

employees while performing their duties has come to the forefront after March 31 incident when criminals looted two arms and kidnapped a forest guard from Dobeki patrol outpost located near the Sundarbans.

Seventy-two patrol outposts under four ranges of East and West wings of Sundarbans Forest Division

are now run by 1,171 officials and employees including around 200 forest guards.

Only four or fewer guards man each of the outposts while most of them are armed with outdated and dysfunctional 303 rifles. Only a few forest guards use Chinese rifles.

It is too difficult and risky for forest guards to face criminals equipped with modern arms, said Md Shahidullah, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO -- East Wing) of Sundarbans Forest Division comprising most vulnerable Sharakhola and Chandpai ranges.

In 2005, criminals looted four arms from forest guards on duty at Dublarchar near the Bay of Bengal.

On January 16 in 2006, criminals looted three arms and 183 bullets from Haldibunia Patrol outpost in the deep forest.

Criminals in connivance with poachers of deer looted two Chinese rifles and 80 bullets from Dobeki forest outpost and kidnapped forest guard Zahiruddin on March 31.

Combing operations by police, coast guards and forest guards has continued in the forest to recover the looted arms and rescue the guard, said DFO (West Wing) Aboni Bhusan Thakur.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH
Locals beat dead this fishing cat, thinking it to be a tiger, as the rare species attacked a goose at Mirzarchar in Banshkandi under Shibchar upazila of Madaripur district on Thursday.

Nine sued for misuse of college funds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed four separate cases against three former principals, two senior teachers and JCD and BCL leaders of B M College on charges of misuse of college funds.

The accused are former principals Prof Nurul Anwar, Yusuf Ali Mallik and A K M Syed Abdur Razzak, senior teachers Yusuf Ali and AKM Shahjahan Kazi, BCL leader and former VP of B M College Students Union Jasimuddin, BCL leader and former GS Nipendra Das Nipu, BCL leader and former magazine secretary Ziaur Rahman Badal and JCD leader and former GS Abu Jafar Badal.

5 muggers arrested in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested five muggers in the city's Kalabagan area early yesterday.

The arrestees are Mezba Uddin, 33, Mokid Hossain, 32, Chanchal, 28, Jony, 25, and Manik, 30. Police also recovered three sharp weapons, five mobile phone sets and Tk 2,500 from their possession.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area at around 4:00am and arrested the muggers.

The same gang snatched Tk 25,000 and a cellphone from a silk factory manager on his arrival in the area from Dhaka early Wednesday.

"Drive will continue in other parts of the city to nab the criminals," said police official.

RU to set CCTV camera for security

Shibir distributes leaflets among people in adjacent areas

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have decided to install close-circuit television (CCTV) camera at different points including dormitories to ensure security of the students.

CCTV camera will be installed at the university main gate, administrative building, academic building, 16 dormitories and other important points to identify the outsiders and trouble-makers on the campus, Proctor Prof Zakaria told newsmen as the RU authorities took the decision at a meeting with police high officials on

Thursday.

Meanwhile, RU Shibir activists yesterday distributed leaflets and booklets among the residents and shop owners in Meherchandi, Budpara, Dasmari, Khojapur and Kajla areas adjacent to the university, witnesses said.

Nazrul, a residence of Meherchandi area, said a group of Shibir activists distributed booklets and leaflets among the local residents and traders and urged them to raise their voice against the activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Blaming the Shibir cadres for trying to create panic

among the locals by distributing leaflets and booklets, local BCL and AL leaders urged the police administration to immediately arrest the Shibir men.

BCL RU unit General Secretary Ayeen Uddin criticised the local police administration for not taking any action against the Shibir cadres.

Earlier on March 31, Shibir activists accompanied by outsiders staged a big show-down on the RU campus and distributed leaflets and booklets among the teachers, students, officers and employees in presence of police.

REQUEST FOR Proposal (RFP)

Rent A Car Service

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh seeks proposals from interested, registered, and well qualified vendors to provide Rent A Car Service for the UNDP Bangladesh Country office.

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state "Proposal for 'Rent A Car Service'" and should be marked as 'Confidential' and addressed to the UNDP Procurement Unit, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The deadline for submission of Proposal is April 18, 2009 (Saturday) 11:00 AM in the Bid box in IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

All interested firms may request the Bidding Documents from procurement.bc@undp.org by formal request to UNDP that will register firm on the list of participants, so that any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and their respective answers can be sent to all bidders.



Bangladesh

Distance Learning Project (DLP)
DIABETIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESHADMISSION NOTICE
FOR THE CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY

Applications are invited from Doctors (MBBS, registered with BMDC) for admission in to the session July-December 2009 of the Certificate Course on Diabetology.

The Bangladesh Diabetic Somiti with experts from the Open University, UK has introduced this 6-month course through distance learning. The standard of the course is set to create consultants on diabetology.

Prospectus and application form can be obtained at a cost of taka 500.00 only from the office of the Course Co-ordinator, Certificate Course on Diabetology, Distance Learning Project (DLP), Room no. 322-B, 2nd floor, BIRDEM, Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre, Shahbagh Dhaka between 8 am to 2 pm from 5 April to 10 May 2009. The course is currently conducted in tutorial centres at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rangpur & Sylhet. New centre(s) will be opened in other suitable places if adequate number of students are available.

Last date of receiving application: 10 May 2009

Prof AK Azad Khan
Chairman, Distance Learning Project &
President, Bangladesh Diabetic Somiti

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNFPA Bangladesh invites applications from the eligible candidates for the following positions:

Position : Assistant Representative - Population and Development.
Level : ICS 10 (NO-C)
Duty Station : UNFPA, Dhaka.

Duties & Responsibilities:

Under the overall guidance of the UNFPA Representative and the direct supervision of the UNFPA Deputy Representative, the Assistant Representative is expected to play a leadership role in the area of population and development and gender mainstreaming/human rights-based approach to Programme development. The Assistant Representative manages the UNFPA-supported activities in the areas of population and development and gender mainstreaming. Acting as an analyst/advisor, the Assistant Representative proactively provides the Representative/Deputy Representative with information on achievement of results in the implementation of UNFPA programmes in the areas of population and development, and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Assistant Representative establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with counterparts in government, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and civil society to address emerging issues and to facilitate Programme delivery in the above-mentioned areas of UNFPA's Programme.

- Creates substantive knowledge of population and development, and gender issues in the country, assesses technical assistance needs in these areas and advises on the suitability of programmes and projects to meet these needs. Addresses policy issues and provides substantive inputs to facilitate policy dialogue and the incorporation of these policies into national plans and strategies, UN systems initiatives and development frameworks (CCA, UNDAF, PRSs, SWAPs, JCSs, CAPs, MDGs).
- Provides substantive leadership and inputs into the design and formulation of programmes and projects translating UNFPA's mandate and strategic priorities into local interventions, and responding to Government plans and priorities. Introduces into the project formulation process the results of Programme and project reviews and evaluations, best practices, as well as innovative strategies, approaches and policies.
- Advices and reports on achievement of Programme and project results, proactively measuring substantive progress and the effective utilization of financial and human project resources using appropriate monitoring and measuring mechanisms and tools. Leads Programme and project implementation guiding and orienting executing agencies and project personnel introducing effective modalities and practices of implementation.
- Represent UNFPA on substantive issues and elaborates UNFPA's substantive regional and global perspectives in the area of expertise. Collaborates on substantive issues with UN agencies, academia, research and training institutions, development partners, think tanks, centers of excellence, and professional societies in the country.
- Contributes to the resource mobilization strategy by analyzing info on potential donors, preparing substantive briefs and project proposals in line with donor priorities, creating feedback mechanisms and providing information on progress of donor funded projects. Identifies opportunities for cost-sharing.

Please visit www.unfpa-bangladesh.com for Detailed TOR, functional, corporate, and competency requirements.

Qualifications & Competencies:

Must have a post graduate degree or equivalent (Preferably PhD) in demography, population studies, economics, or other field directly related to the substantive area identified in the title of the post with more than 10 years of increasingly responsible professional experience in the substantive area, of which 5 years at senior management level. The incumbent also need to possess fluency in oral and written English with proficiency in office software applications.

Interested candidates are requested to apply along with a detailed CV/P11 form and a passport size photograph on or before 16th April, 2009 by 4:30 pm to The Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (15th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Alternatively, CV/P11 can be sent via e-mail to the following address: hr@unfpa-bangladesh.org. Detailed Terms of Reference and P11 form can be obtained from UNFPA website www.unfpa-bangladesh.org/php/vacancy.php

"ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED"
"This is a re-advertisement and those who applied previously need not apply"