

Troops seize tonnes of opium, kill 17 Taliban

AFP, Kabul

US and Afghan forces seized 50 tonnes of opium and killed 17 Taliban on Wednesday, the defence ministry said, as US President Barack Obama mulled his options for the increasingly war-torn country.

The drug haul and insurgent deaths came in joint action between American and Afghan troops in the troubled south of the country, and also saw 1.8 tonnes of heroin seized, along with several Taliban.

It was one of the largest drug seizures in recent memory, worth five million dollars, Mohammad Zahir Azimi, a defence ministry spokesman, told AFP.

In the five-hour operation that began at 11:00 am (0630 GMT), the soldiers dropped from helicopters into the Kajaki district of Helmand province, source of most of the world's heroin, the spokesman said.

"We seized and destroyed 30 tonnes of fertiliser, 1,000 boxes of AK-47 and TK machinegun bullets and other weapons," he said, adding that a factory for making remote-controlled bombs was also destroyed.

PM wants more

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Assembly (UNGA) session held in New York last month, Roy highly appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's speech in the UNGA and her meetings with US President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the session.

Sheikh Hasina while focusing on contribution of Bangladesh peacekeepers in the UN peacekeeping missions, also urged the United Nations to provide free tickets to the peacekeepers specially soldiers after each six month so that they could meet their family members living in the country.

The prime minister told the UN Under Secretary General that in her speech to the UNGA, she requested the UN to appoint more Bangladesh peacekeepers in the policy making levels of UN Peacekeeping Operations and different field level command posts.

She said the Bangladesh peacekeepers are very efficient, disciplined, obedient and hardworking and requested the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions to recruit more female police forces in its peacekeeping operations.

Referring to Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord

signed by the past Awami League government, she said peace has been restored in the CHT region following signing of the peace treaty.

"We have solved the problems politically and motivated them to return to normal life," she said adding that after the government efforts they returned to peaceful life.

Mentioning her participation in the UNGA session in New York, the prime minister said she also highlighted climate change issues in the world meet and called for concerted efforts to face the challenges caused by global warming.

In this context, she said like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan are also being affected by the climate change as ice is melting alarmingly while sea level is rising.

Adviser to the Prime Minister Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Principal Staff Officer Maj Gen Wadud, Ambassador M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim, Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad were present on the occasion.

House

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The meeting however observed that there is no obstacle to holding discussion on it in parliament regardless of the writ petition, the sources said.

The probe body investigating irregularities during the tenure of the former speaker in its report asked the House to strip Sircar of his MP status and recover around Tk 2.50 crore he, his deputy and the then chief whip took illegally in medical bills, additional fuel allowances and other facilities.

In its report, the probe body also recommended taking legal actions against Sircar, Akhtar Hamid and Delwar.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali, Suranjit Sengupta, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Abdul Matin Khasru, Rashid Khan Menon and Fazle Rabbi Mia were present at the meeting.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed joined the meeting on special invitation. The opposition members of the BAC however did not join the meeting.

The meeting also decided to hold discussion in parliament on amended second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and it empowered the speaker to decide whether any discussion on any other issue will be held or not.

The BAC also empowered the speaker to extend duration of the current session, if necessary.

Planning Minister air vice marshal (retd) AK Khandker on September 15 placed the draft for holding discussions on it in the House, as the government wants to finalise the paper by next December.

In the draft document the government has estimated an expenditure of Tk 3,108 billion to achieve the goals and targets set out in the modified document.

Maintenance of macroeconomic stability and control over commodity price hike in the face of the present global economic recession, effective actions against corruption, ensuring adequacy of power and energy, elimination of poverty and inequality and establishment of good governance have been identified as five priority areas in the document.

Shakib

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reached greater heights yesterday when he topped a performance table compiled by the revered magazine's correspondents at Tests played between September 2008 and the end of August 2009.

Surprisingly though the ever-smiling Shakib beat the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Andrew Flintoff and Jacques Kallis with a performance that saw Bangladesh winning back-to-back series in the West Indies and Zimbabwe after pushing New Zealand to the limit at home.

Australia paceman Brett Lee won the accolade last year. The left-arm spinner took 45 wickets including five five-wicket hauls, and scored 498 fluent runs at an average of 35.57. He won highest 7.94 points out of 10 in the voting while India's left-handed opener Gautam Gambhir ranked second with South Africa captain Graeme Smith claiming third place, just ahead of Tendulkar and Kallis, who tied for the fourth place.

"Recognition is always inspiring and these things keep me moving when I tend to feel fatigued with gruelling training and the scare of injury," said Shakib after being confronted by reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"I don't lose sleep over disappointments and rather look ahead to seize the next opportunity. I have been a performer and I work hard at my game to become the best cricketer I can be. Getting recognised by the Wisden Cricketer is the pinnacle of individual recognition as far as I am concerned," said Shakib, who is the best one-day all-rounder in the ICC rankings.

John Stern, editor of the magazine, in a statement said: "I'm sure this achievement will be a surprise to many followers of the game but it represents an outstanding 12 months for Shakib, especially in the context of him playing for an international side that is still finding its feet."

PM opens excavation of a canal

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Bangladesh Air Force here in the morning.

Reiterating her call to the developers to launch housing projects keeping provision for water reservoir and playground for children, she said, "You should not go for profit only rather you have to think about the environment of the city while initiating a housing plan."

The prime minister also called upon all for preservation of rainwater to reduce pressure on groundwater as the water table is decreasing alarmingly with the excessive use of ground water.

"Using of rain water has to be increased keeping in mind that Dhaka city is an earthquake prone area," she added.

Referring to the air force project to remove waterlogging, she said the project would immensely help improving environment in the city as well as removing waterlogging. Sheikh Hasina said the city dwellers will have a lake along

with a water reservoir where fish would be cultivated after the completion of the project.

"On completion of the project, the people of this area would be able to enjoy a lakeside view like residents of Dhanmondi area as both sides of the lake would be beautified," she added.

According to the project plan, the Bangladesh Air Force will excavate a two km long canal comprising a water reservoir involving at an estimated cost of Tk 4 crore to remove waterlogging from the airport road specially from in front of the Air Force Officer's Mess and its adjoining areas.

The canal will start from behind officer's mess of the special security force (SSF) and linked to a water reservoir on the old airport premises.

The canal would pass through the Wasa's drainage system there and then connect with the drainage system at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre point before passing through the 'Cha Khal'

(canal) in the city's Kalayapur area.

On completion of the project, water from the canal would normally roll down to the Kalayapur canal and subsequently the river furag significantly removing stagnant water from in front of Air Force Officer's Mess and its surrounding areas on the airport road.

The project is expected to be completed by mid of April next year.

Besides, a total of 1,200 saplings of medicinal trees would be planted on both sides of the canal to protect environment, said Air Commodore Mohammad Hossain while briefing the project.

Later, the prime minister planted a sapling of 'Neem' tree at the project site and offered a munajat for smooth implementation of the project and peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

Three more saplings of 'Neem' trees were also planted there by Prime Minister's Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique

Ahmed Siddique, Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and Cabinet Secretary MAKarim on the occasion.

The project was launched following directives from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) when the city dwellers witnessed a severe waterlogging on the airport road specially in front of the PMO here on July 27 and July 28 after heavy rainfall.

Following the waterlogging, the prime minister summoned, the city mayor and high officials of Dhaka Wasa and Air Force to find out ways and means to remove waterlogging from the area permanently.

Later, a survey was conducted to this end and following the survey report, the project was launched for giving solution of the problem permanently.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and high civil and military officials were, among others, present at the inaugural function of the project.

Opportunity in Danida – Programme Officer Human Rights & Good Governance Programme

As part of Denmark's bilateral development assistance to Bangladesh, Danida is supporting a number of projects with Bangladeshi Governmental Institutions as well as NGO's, under the umbrella of its Human Rights & Good Governance (HRGG) Programme.

A Programme Support Unit (PSU) supports the Embassy of Denmark in supervising the Programme, which initiated a second 5-year period by January 2006.

The PSU is looking for a qualified national candidate to fill the position as Programme Officer (PO), which is available from November 2009 on one year contractual basis with the eventual possibility of extension up to June 2011. Salary and status according to qualifications and experience.

The PO will undertake the following main responsibilities:

- Participate in the work related to supervision and monitoring of the 26 projects within the programme, with specific responsibilities in relation to the 16 projects implemented by NGO's.
- Contribute to the general programme level management in relation to planning, coordination, monitoring, reporting etc.
- Contribute to the elaboration of special reports and analysis on selected HRGG issues, and contribute with inputs to the formulation of a third phase of the programme.

The PO will work at the PSU's office in Dhaka (Gulshan 2) and refer to the Head of the Unit. Occasional field visits to partners and projects in all parts of the country is part of the regular monitoring efforts.

Required qualifications: Post-graduate degree in Social Science, Law, Public Administration or equivalent. Candidates should have thorough knowledge and understanding of human rights and good governance issues and demonstrate solid and relevant working experiences, including project cycle monitoring and related tools, such as the logical framework approach. The post requires good teamwork capacity, but also ability to undertake individual responsibilities and meet dead lines, even under time pressure. Fluency in English (speech/writing) is a minimum requirement. Employment with donor assisted programmes/agencies will be considered an added advantage.

Application including salary aspiration and two work related references should together with a detailed and updated CV be mailed to the address as mentioned below before the 20th October, 2009:

"PO", Danida HRGG-PSU, Post Box No. A-74 C/O. The Daily Star, 19 Karwan bazar, Dhaka-1215.

Only candidates short listed for an interview will be contacted.

Danida is an equal opportunity employer and qualified candidates of both sexes are equally encouraged to apply.

United Nations World Food Programme Dhaka, Bangladesh

Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh invites applications from qualified, experienced and motivated Bangladeshi nationals for recruitment in the following positions:

Post Title: **National Expert on Food Security & Nutrition/ Public Health**

Type of Appointment: **Service Contract (SC)**, Post Grade: **BL8 (NO-A equivalent)**, Duration: **11 months**

Qualifications and Experiences: Masters Degree or Higher in Food and Nutrition including training in public health is essential; Expert in community nutrition, in depth knowledge on the food based nutrition intervention programmes, policies and strategies; At least 6 years of professional experience in the area relevant to the assignment; Significant experience on the Bangladesh food and nutrition security Sector, familiarity with the relevant state and non-state stakeholders, international agencies (especially UN) and the private sector (especially the food industry).

Proficiency in English communication (writing, speaking) is essential.

Post Title: **Programme Assistant – Nutrition (National)**

Type of Appointment: **Service Contract (SC)**, Post Grade: **BL 6 (GS-6 equivalent)**, Duration: **11 months**

Qualifications and Experiences: Masters Degree in Food and Nutrition including training & experience in M&E is essential; knowledge on the food based nutrition intervention programmes; 3-5 years of professional experience in the area relevant to the assignment; Experience on the Bangladesh food and nutrition security Sector, familiarity with the relevant state and non-state stakeholders, international agencies (especially UN) and the private sector (especially the food industry).

Proficiency in English communication (writing, speaking) is essential.

Submission of applications: Candidates meeting the requirements of the positions are encouraged to visit our website www.wfp.org/bangladesh and send their applications to **Human Resources Officer, WFP, UN Offices, IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh** or e-mail to: Bangladesh_Vacancy_Announcement@wfp.org.

Women are especially encouraged to apply.

Closing date: **20 October 2009**



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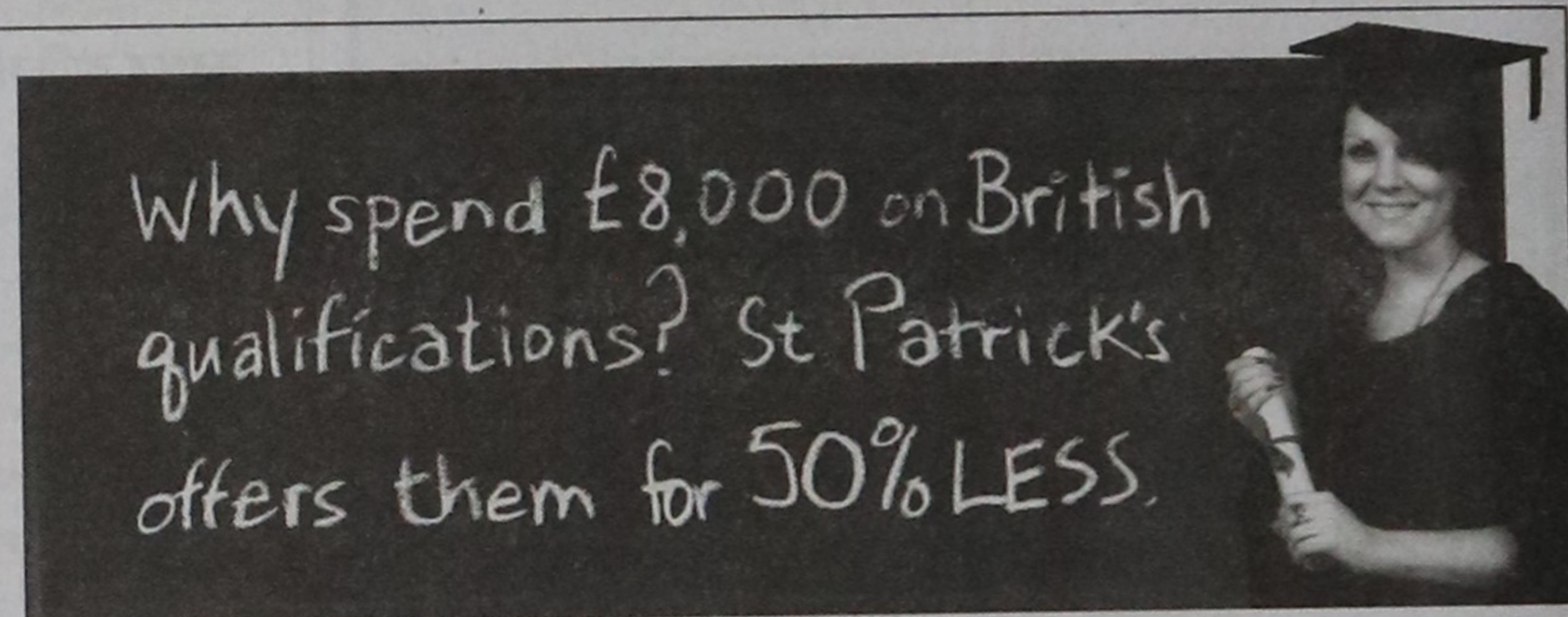
- Professional accountancy or business qualification (FCA preferred)
- 8 years (12 for qualifications other than FCA) in a similar position preferably in an international or multinational organization.
- Must have good knowledge of Financial Management including budget operation, auditing procedures, international accounting standards
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Applications

Cover letter & current CV with reference list and photo on or before October 24, 2009 to:

Ms. Naznin Mizan
Human Resource Manager
12 United Nations Road
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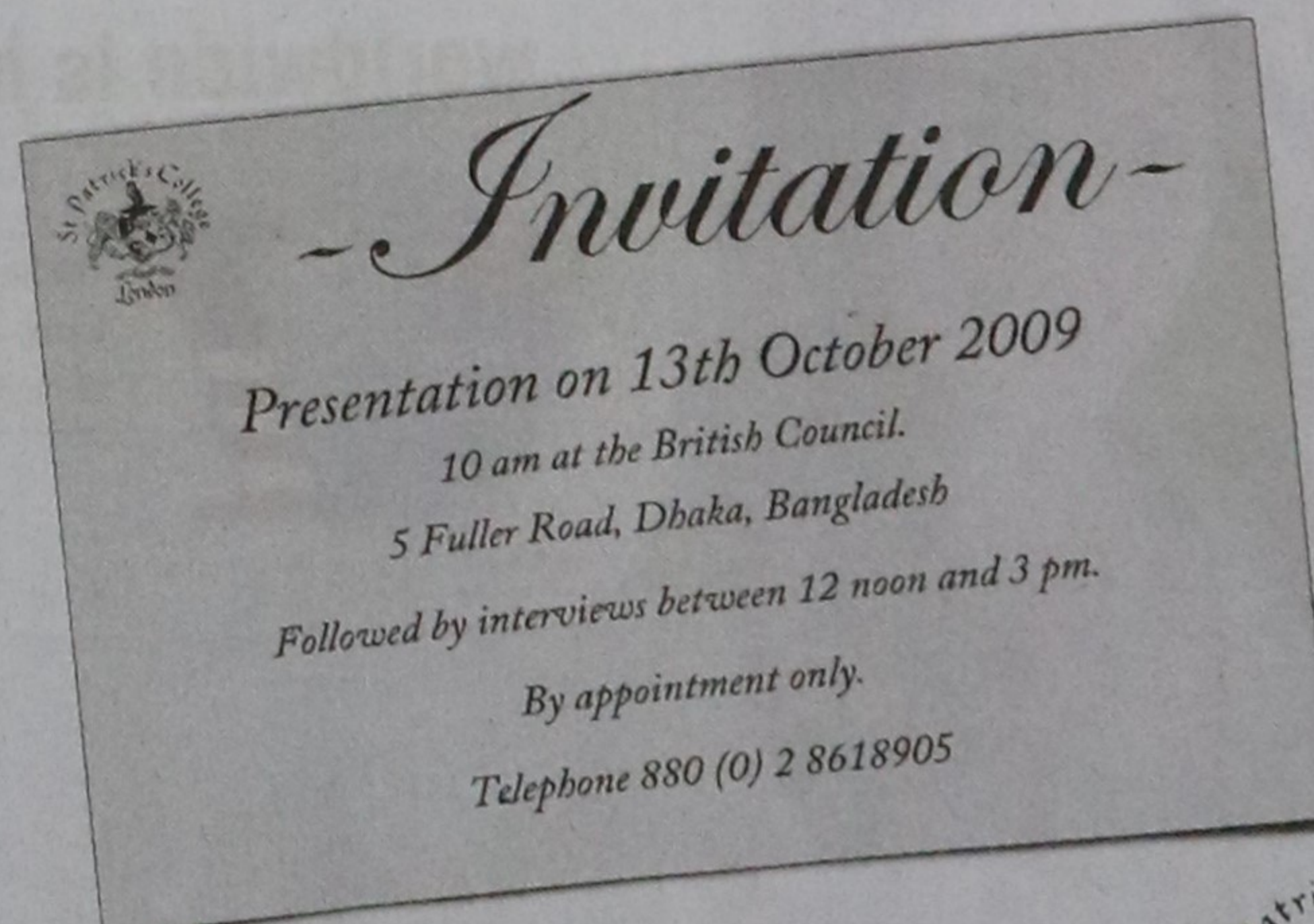
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