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INSPIRE ANNOUNCEMENT Call for Applications - Round 3

INSPIRE – International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education is a British Council funded project that aims to significantly strengthen academic and research partnerships between the UK and a strategic selection of countries in Central and South Asia (CSA), including: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan.

The principal aim of INSPIRE is to support a transformational increase in the number and scope of Higher Education Partnerships between the UK and Universities in the CSA Region.

Funding opportunities are currently available in the following areas of activity:

1. Partnership Exploratory Grants (EGs) are to help institutions gain knowledge and to provide active support in helping them to develop strategic relationships. In order to assist institutions to develop new links we are offering a number of grants of up to £2,000 to support strategic partnership discussions between UK institutions and potential partner institutions in CSA Regional Countries and vice-versa.

Deadline: Friday 19 November 2010. However, applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

2. Institution-to-Institution Strategic Partnerships (SPs) are part of a five-year programme designed to grow high level strategic relationships between UK Higher Education Institutions and Higher Education Institutions in the CSA Regional Countries. The maximum award for a bilateral institution-to-institution partnership is £15,000 per annum. Complex, larger scale projects which involve a larger number of institutions or countries may bid for an award up to a maximum of £30,000 per annum. It may be that the funding awarded is less than is requested.

Deadline: 17:00 GMT on Friday 16 July 2010.

Please note that all the above activities must be focussed on the following subject areas prioritised for Bangladesh:

1. **Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering**
2. **English Language** with a focus on Teaching Methodology
3. **Environment and Climate Change**
4. **Fine Arts, Theatre and Fashion**
5. **Renewable and Alternative Energy**

Applications are hereby invited from interested Public and Private Higher Education Institutions in Bangladesh for funding. We encourage those institutions which have an active INSPIRE partnership to develop multilateral links with universities new to INSPIRE. Application forms, budget spreadsheet and guidelines for EGs and SPs are available at: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/inspire.htm>

A half-day 'INSPIRE Proposal Writing Workshop' for interested and eligible bidders will be offered in Dhaka on Thursday 3rd June 2010. For further information and enrolment, please contact Mahbul Haque on: Mahbul.haque@bd.britishcouncil.org

Please send the soft copies of the completed applications to: inspire@britishcouncil.org and hard/signed copies to the following address:

Md Omar Faruque
INSPIRE Country Coordinator
British Council Bangladesh
5 Fuller Road, GPO Box 161
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Email: Omar.faruque@bd.britishcouncil.org

Call to resist stalking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Creating mass awareness against stalking and sexual harassment and enforcing strict laws are imperative to prevent such harassment of girls, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

Stalking is not only a social disease it is also a criminal offence, they said, calling on the media to conduct a vigorous campaign against the menace, which resulted in the death of a number of girls recently.

Stressing the need for changes in the mindset towards women, they said all the components of the society including family, educational institution and media will have to work together to resist the social crime as it is not possible for the government to resist it alone.

They suggested increasing interaction of the girls and boys by arranging more social and cultural programmes.

The Ministry of Education organised the seminar titled 'Ensuring proper educational environment and security of the female students by resisting stalking criminals' at National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM) in the city.

Speaker of the Parliament Abdul Hamid said an integrated effort of all is a must to remove the problem whose magnitude has increased with the change of time due to decay in values.

"We have to consider woman as human being not just women and the attitude of male towards women will have to be changed," he said. "We've to initiate the culture of showing respect to each other."

Stressing building social movement, he said the stalkers are also the part of the society and so they will have to be brought to the path of goodness.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun said many girls stopped their education and even some of them took the path of committing suicide which is extremely regretful.

"We cannot let such regretful incidents happen anymore," she said.

The deputy commissioners were already asked to take necessary steps while vigilance of intelligence agencies and patrolling by the law enforcement agencies in front of the educational institutions have been beefed up, she mentioned.

The government is mulling reforming the women repression act, she added.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said they will soon send a directive to the educational institutions by combining all the opinions placed in different programmes and discussions.

Committees will be formed with people of all strata of life in the schools in district and upazila level to raise public opinions and build resistance against the stalking miscreants, he said.

"We want to impose stringent penalties to the stalkers. We cannot resist them by only enforcing laws we have to boycott them socially," he said.

He urged the media to portray the stalkers as the most hated in the dramas, movies and advertisements. The imams of the mosque and preachers have immense role to play, he added.

Director General of Directorate of Women Affairs Rawshan Ara Begum presented a keynote paper.

Education Secretary Syed Aatur Rahman, Additional Secretary to Education Ministry Sirajul Islam, representatives of different government and non-government offices and teachers and students of different educational institutions also spoke.

JAMUNA TV HC verdict on writ petition May 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday fixed May 20 for delivering verdict on a writ petition that challenged the government action stopping the broadcasting of Jamuna TV, a private satellite television channel.

On completion hearing on the petition, an HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore set the date of verdict.

On November 19 last year, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) halted the test transmission of this television channel, as it did not obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC), which is necessary for programme transmission.

Nurul Islam Babul, owner of the TV channel, filed the writ petition with the High Court on November 22 last year challenging the legality of the action of BTRC.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chief Operating Officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka Shahjahan Majumder, *third from right*, and first secretary of Australian High Commission Barbara Muzic, *second from right*, exchange documents after signing a corporate agreement on behalf of their respective organisations to provide priority corporate benefits and medical services for their employees. General Manager, Business Development of the hospital Dr Shagufa Anwar, *left*, was present at the signing ceremony.

23 shop owners fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of the Department of Environment (DOE) fined 23 shop owners with Tk 51,400 for using polythene during a drive at different parts of the city yesterday, says a press release.

The court also seized around 1,000 kilograms of polythene shopping bags from the shops.

The mobile court led by acting director of Dhaka Division of the DOE, Sukumar Roy Biswas conducted the drive in city's Mohammadpur, Town Hall Market, New Market and Hatirpul Kitchen Market area.

Executive Magistrate Mahbuba Bilkis, officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and DOE helped conduct the drive.

WANTED

SENIOR PLUMBING ENGINEER

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Qualifications:

- (1) BSc Engineering (Civil or Mechanical) from any Public University.
- (2) Minimum 07 (Seven) years experience in Plumbing Design and Field Supervision for multi-storied constructions.
- (3) Well-versed in Plumbing Design & Works Codes with hands-on knowledge of Plumbing Materials & Accessories.
- (4) Good communication and interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates are requested to send their detailed CV along with cover letter and a recent passport size color photograph within 7 days of the Advertisement to the following address:

The Chairman & President
Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd
Office Of Corporate & Management Services
91 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212



Career Opportunity

United Commercial Bank Ltd. (UCB), a leading first generation private sector commercial bank having wide network across the country is looking for young, energetic, self motivated and hard working fresh post graduates as **Officer** who are interested to take challenging career.

UCB offers a unique corporate culture & friendly working environment which unites our people towards achieving tremendous results in every aspects of Bank's operation.

UCB is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications for the position of Officer from candidates that fulfill the following criteria:

Qualification:

- Masters from a reputed University with minimum two 1st class/division/equivalent CGPA having no third class/division in any academic examination.
- Age not over 30 years as on May 30, 2010.
- Strong Computer Skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skill.

Selection Criteria:

- Short listed candidates will have to sit for competitive written test.
- Candidates obtaining at least 60% marks in the written test will be called for subsequent selection process.
- Selected candidates shall remain on probation for a period of 01(one) year. During this period an effective on the job training will be provided to the Officer.

Compensation package:

- Consolidated Tk. 24,000 as monthly emoluments during probation period.
- After successful completion of probation period they will be confirmed as Officer in the scale of 11700-1170-16380-EB-1290-29280 with other admissible benefits.

Condition:

- Selected candidates have to execute a Bond on non-judicial stamp that they would serve the Bank for at least 3(three) years.
- Candidates interested to serve any of the branches/offices of UCB in Bangladesh will be preferred.

If you think you are the right person we are looking for, please send your detailed resume through online www.bdjobs.com with a scanned passport size photograph by **May 30, 2010**.

UCB



WALK-IN INTERVIEW

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Medical Information Officer Sandoz Division

Our expectation from you is to:

- Achieve business objectives
- Create sustainable demand
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You Must Have:

- Masters/ Four (4) years Honours in any discipline (MSc/BSc preferred)
- Science background up to HSC level (essential)
- Good academic track records desired
- Self-driven attitude, eagerness to learn and a strong presence of mind combined with problem solving and decision making skills
- Excellent communication skills both in English & Bangla
- Interest to work anywhere in Bangladesh and willingness to travel extensively
- Ability to ride a motorcycle

AS A PERFORMANCE ORIENTED ORGANIZATION YOU EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE BEST COMPENSATION & BENEFITS IN THE INDUSTRY.

Interested individuals who meet the required criteria are requested to appear for a walk-in interview with a resume along with a hand written application and one recent photograph as per following:

Date: 21st May, 2010 (Friday)

Time: Anytime between 10 am to 4 pm

Place: Lake Shore Hotel
Road 41, House 46, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
Phone: 8861787-92, 8861783-86

Female candidates are encouraged to apply