

GANG-RAPE ROW IN INDIA Govt seeks life term for rapists

AFP, New Delhi

India's government, facing swelling protests over the gang-rape of a female student on a bus, vowed on Friday to press for life sentences for her six attackers and promised stricter policing.

Home Secretary RK Singh also said the government would pay the medical bills of the 23-year-old victim of the brutal Sunday night attack who is fighting for her life in hospital after suffering serious injuries to her intestines.

"We will ask for the maximum punishment of life imprisonment and ask the court for the speedy trial of the accused," Singh said as New Delhi and other cities continued to be swept by an unprecedented wave of demonstrations by women demanding better safety.

Six drunken men were joyriding on a bus when they picked up the physiotherapy student and her 28-year-old male companion and took turns raping her. Afterwards, they threw the pair off the speeding vehicle.

Police say the woman was attacked with an iron rod after being raped.

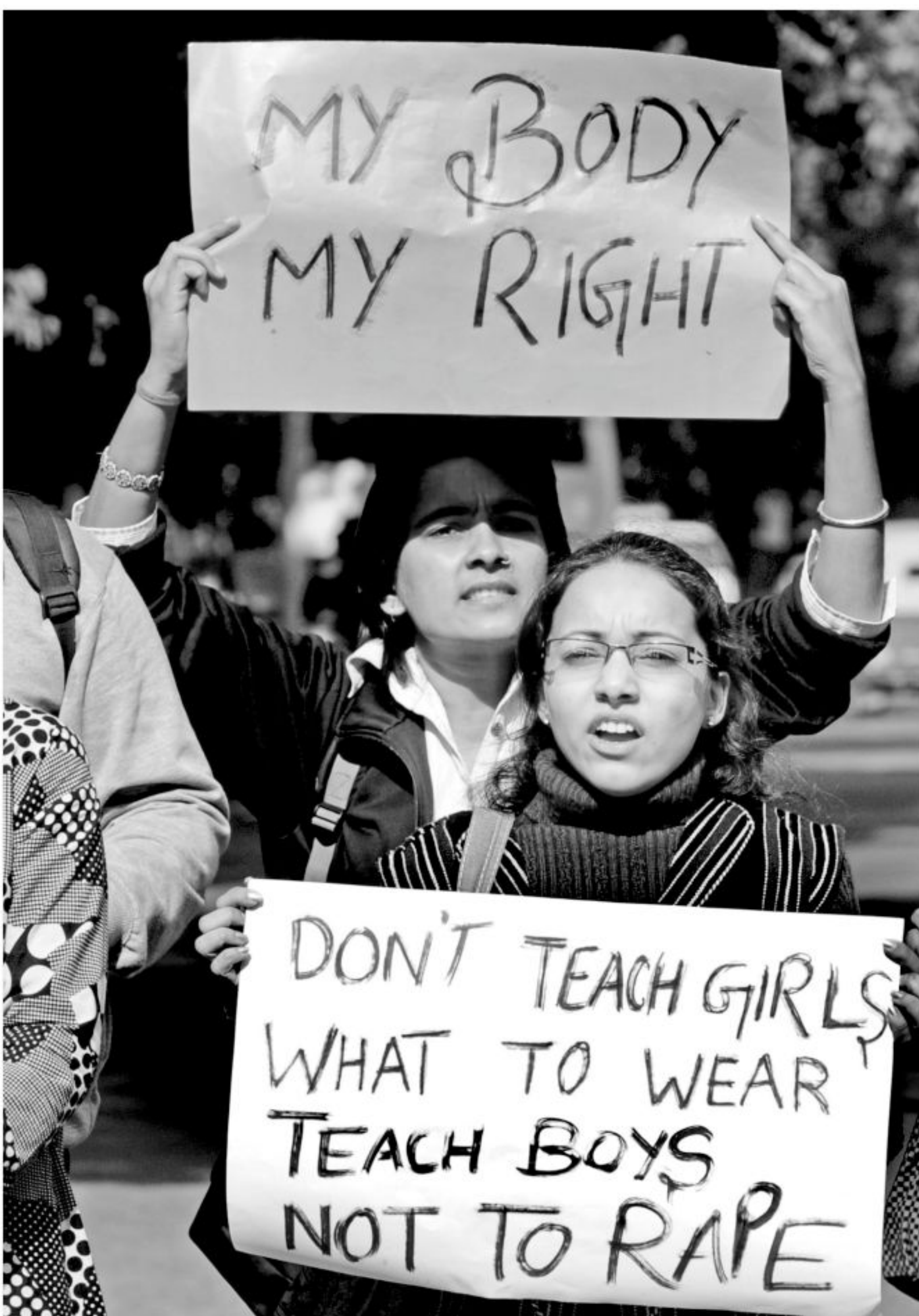
Experts say a combination of abusive sexual behaviour, a scant fear of law and India's creaky judicial system encourages such attacks in the bustling city of 19 million people.

Five people, including the bus driver, have been arrested while a search is underway for the remaining suspect, city police commissioner Neeraj Kumar said.

Kumar said police have charged the detained suspects with rape and attempted murder.

Kumar promised a slew of measures to "make Delhi safe," promising squads of officers would patrol the city, crack down on vehicles with darkened windows and zero in on drunken motorists.

The number of rape cases in New Delhi has risen 17 percent to 661 this year compared with 2011. The number of rapes is triple the number reported in India's financial capital Mumbai.



Indian students and teachers shout anti-government and police slogans as they demand the resignation of the Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit during a protest in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Yaba floods port city

FROM PAGE 20

Coast Guard and Directorate of Narcotics Control in their separate drives seized 2,09,586 Yaba tablets and arrested 275 offenders in October, 2012.

In August, the figures were 38,024 tablets and 235 arrests, said sources.

Police sources said the price of each Yaba tablet on the street dropped to Tk 100-200 from Tk 500 in about six months. This drop widened the market.

On October 20, the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested a person running a secret lab, where Yaba and other drugs are made, said DB sources.

From street hawkers to university students, labourers to businessmen, many people are now involved in carrying, selling and consuming Yaba, said Squadron Leader Nazmul Hossain, deputy commanding officer of Rab-7.

On October 24, Rab-7

arrested a guava seller in front of VIP Tower in the port city with 675 Yaba tablets. He was using guava selling as a front for his drug trade.

The narcotics department seized 1,000 Yaba tablets and arrested two people at Alfala Gali in the port city on November 1. The arrestees were law students of a private university.

These types of drives and recovery are becoming everyday incidents in the port city, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch Tareq Ahmed of CPM.

At GEC intersection, students from schools, colleges and universities openly buy the drug from at least a dozen peddlers.

The situation is more or less the same at major intersections, slums, and transport stations in Chittagong. Some drug dealers even make home deliveries getting their orders via mobile phone.

The smugglers use Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, Banskhali, Ramgati, Bandarban, Comilla, Feni and Mirsarai borders as their smuggling routes, said sources.

The border routes have remained under strict surveillance due to the recent Rohingya issue and the smugglers now use Sathkira and Khulna as their new routes to Chittagong, using buses, trucks and trains, said DB sources.

Deputy Director Mukul Jyoti Chakma of the narcotics department in Chittagong said the law enforcers, in most cases, are not able to arrest ring leaders and end up catching traffickers only. "When a trafficker is arrested, he cannot give full information about the ring leaders."

The department sources said there were more than 20 Yaba factories in Maungdaw in Myanmar, just across the river Naff.

Myanmar is the largest

producer of methamphetamine in the world, according to Wikipedia.org.

Lt Colonel Zahid Hasan said, "The free movement of natives and Myanmar fishermen in the river and sea also makes an easy way for smuggling between Myanmar and Bangladesh."

Additional Deputy Commissioner of DB Tareq Ahmed of Chittagong said, "The arrested Yaba peddlers get bail from court and again get involved in the crime."

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam said in spite of strong vigilance and measures taken by law enforcement agencies, the smuggling of Yaba seemed unstoppable.

"The problem has now turned into a social problem. Besides the law enforcers, the whole society should build awareness about the matter."

Parties cry foul, but field alleged rapists

AFP, New Delhi

At least 20 men accused of raping women ran in Indian elections in the last five years, according to a think-tank report published amid growing outrage over the gang-rape of a student on a bus.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) study was released on Thursday. "Since 2007, political parties gave tickets to 20 rape accused to fight in state elections," Jagdeep Chhokar, the founder of ADR, said.

"The politicians who come out to condemn rape are the ones who are openly giving the rape accused a chance to fight elections. This is hypocrisy," he told AFP. The report stated that political parties had also given tickets to 260 men who were charged with other crimes against women.

UK PM visits troops in Afghanistan

AFP, London

Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday paid a pre-Christmas visit to British troops serving in Afghanistan, insisting that the "high price" paid by servicemen had been worthwhile, his office said.

Cameron told reporters that Afghan security forces were "doing better than expected" as he defended plans for the British force to be cut to 5,200 next year, according to his office.

The premier, who was touring Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, said he was confident that the draw-down of nearly half of the British troops deployed, announced in parliament on Wednesday, would not pave the way for an increase in terrorist activity.

Infighting costs

FROM PAGE 1

a city corporation. The duo opposed the party decision to back Mosiur Rahman Ranga, president of Rangpur Jatiya Party, in the maiden city corporation election. Later, Ranga pulled out of the race at Ershad's instruction, party sources said.

Mostafa and Manik, both expelled from the party, fought the election.

Many locals now point out Ershad's failure to resolve the feud centring the election. They say Jhantu, an advisory committee member of Rangpur Awami League, bagged 1,06,255 votes while the other two got votes totalling 1,15,013.

Either Mostafa or Manik could have won the mayoral post, had any of them got the blessing of JP Chairman and former military ruler Ershad.

According to party

insiders, many leaders like Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu and Nur Mohammad Mondal left JP only because of intra-party feud.

JP secured all six constituencies in Rangpur in 2001 national elections.

In 2008, it took Rangpur-1, -2 and -3 and Awami League got the other three. However, the two parties were allies this time.

Jatiya Party in 2009 upazila parishad polls secured two out of eight upazilas; AL and independent candidates captured the rest.

Mosiur Rahman Ranga, also a JP presidium member, said let the city corporation polls be a lesson to the leaders, supporters and activists.

"This lesson will be useful in the next general elections and restoring the base of JP," he added.

First marrow

FROM PAGE 20

down the transplant cost to Tk 5 lakh, whereas it takes about Tk 1 crore in the US, Tk 50 to 60 lakh in Singapore and Tk 40 to 50 lakh in India.

Bone marrow transplant has the potential to cure thalassaemia (major and minor), several types of bone cancer, and other non-malignant and non-cancerous diseases.

About 10 percent children of the country were suffering from thalassaemia and different types of blood cancers, said the DMCH director.

He said although the number of such patients is so huge, the unit would be able to treat only six

patients at a time. "The idea is, once we have the expertise in the country the private sector will be encouraged to set up more similar units," he added.

"Medical equipment worth Tk 19 crore have already been procured for the transplant unit," said Rahman, adding that Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) was providing technical support for the programme.

Bimalangshu R Dey, a Bangladeshi doctor working in the US as an assistant professor of the Department of Medicine at MGH, was one of the key figures in arranging the deal between the

Bangladesh government and MGH.

On the programme, Dey said, "For the first six months, the unit will only try the simpler methods [autologous stem cell transplant]. About 80 to 90 percent patients, who are born with thalassaemia major, can be fully cured if the transplant is done at the right time."

The collaboration with MGH is mainly focused on the education and training of physicians, technologists and nurses, said Saiful Islam, additional director general of the Directorate of Health Services.

The training will go on for the next 10 months, he added.

We survived!

FROM PAGE 20

France, which was cited as the only safe spot, unless of course that UFO did turn up and they just haven't told us about it.

And one gambler was left red-faced after putting a £10 bet on the apocalypse, standing to win £50,000 if the world had ended today.

He made the bet with friend Rob Moss after telling him there was more chance of the world ending than his bicycle courier business being a success.

Bugarach, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, is said to contain a mystical UFO garage which will ferry people off planet earth as the Mayan Calendar runs out.

Doomsday followers were convinced here will be no December 22nd for anyone except for those who make it to the hamlet, which has a population of 189 people.

It had swelled to around three times that amount today, with some 200 journalists joining mainly "New Age types".

But the 100 odd police set up road blocks and said

no-one else would be allowed up until after Christmas.

In Merida, the celebration of the cosmic dawn opened inauspiciously, with a fumbling of the sacred fire meant to honour the calendar's conclusion.

Gabriel Lemus, the white-haired guardian of the flame, burned his finger on the kindling and later had to scoop up a burning log that fell from the ceremonial brazier on to the stage.

Still, he was convinced that it was a good start, as he was joined by about 1,000 other shamans, seers, stargazers, crystal enthusiasts, yogis, sufis and swamis.

"It is a cosmic dawn," he declared. "We will recover the ability to communicate telepathically and levitate objects ... like our ancestors did."

Celebrants later held their arms in the air in a salute to the morningsun.

"The galactic bridge has been established," intoned spiritual leader Alberto Arribalzaga. "At this moment, spirals of light

are entering the centre of your head ... generating powerful vortexes that cover the planet."

Despite all the ritual and banter, few actually believed the world would end today - the summit was scheduled to run until tomorrow.

Instead, participants said they were here to celebrate the birth of a new age.

A Mexican Indian seer who calls himself Ac Tah, and who has travelled around Mexico erecting small pyramids he calls "neurological circuits", said he held high hopes for the day.

"We are preparing ourselves to receive a huge magnetic field straight from the centre of the galaxy," he said.

At dozens of booths set up in the convention hall, visitors could have their auras photographed with Chi light, get a shamanic cleansing or buy sandals, herbs and wholegrain baked goods. Cleansing usually involves having copal incense waved around one's body.

Visitors could also learn the art of "healing drum-

ming" with a Mexican Otomi Indian master, Dabadi Thaayroyadi, who said his slender hand-held drums were made with prayers embedded inside. The drums emit "an intelligent energy" that can heal emotional, physical and social ailments, he says.

During the opening ceremony, participants chanted mantras to the blazing Yucatan sun, which quickly burned the fair-skinned crowd.

Violeta Simarro, a secretary from Perpignan, France, taking shelter under an awning, noted that the new age would not necessarily be easy.

"It will be a little difficult at first, because the world will need a complete 'nettoyage' [cleansing], because there are so many bad things," she said.

But not all seers endorsed the celebration. Mexico's self-styled "brujo mayor" or chief soothsayer, Antonio Vazquez Alba, warned followers to stay away from gatherings.

"We have to beware of mass psychosis" that could

lead to stampedes or "mass suicides, of the kind we've seen before", he said.

Others saw the gathering as a model for the coming age.

Participants from Asian, North American, South American and European shamanistic traditions mingled amiably with the Mexican hosts.

The Maya, who invented an amazingly accurate calendar almost 2,000 years ago, measured time in 394-year periods known as baktuns.

Some anthropologists believe the 13th baktun ends on December 21. Still, archaeologists have uncovered Mayan glyphs that refer to dates far, far in the future, long beyond December 21.

Yucatan governor Rolando Zapata, whose state is home to Mexico's largest Mayan population and has benefited from a boom in tourism, said he too felt the good vibes.

"We believe that the beginning of a new baktun means the beginning of a new era, and we're receiving it with great optimism," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Bangladesh Police Central Police Hospital Rajarbag, Dhaka				
Invitation for Re-Tender				
Sealed re-tender are hereby invited from the suppliers/local agents in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka for the year 2012-2013.				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.		
2	Agency	Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
3	Procuring entity name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.		
4	Invitation for	Purchase of different hospital items.		
5	Invitation Ref. No.	CPH/Tender/04(Part-2)/2012-2013.		
6	Date	17/12/2012.		
KEY INFORMATION				
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
8	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
9	Tender publication date	20/12/2012 & 21/12/2012.		
10	Tender last selling date	02/01/2013.		
11	Tender closing date and time	At 12:00 noon on 03/01/2013.		
12	Tender opening date and time	14:00pm on 03/01/2013.		
13	Name & address of the office(s)			
	Selling tender document	1. Office of the AIG (Supply), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Deputy Police Commissioner (Supply), DMP, Dhaka. 3. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dhaka. 4. Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
	Receiving tender document	1. Office of the AIG (Supply), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Deputy Police Commissioner (Supply), DMP, Dhaka. 3. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dhaka. 4. Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
14	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (bidder must present for avoiding any future hassle of ensure quality product)	Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.	Date	Time
			31/12/2012	11:00
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
15	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) Up-to-date trade license (2) Up-to-date TIN certificate (3) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate and (4) Other documents described in tender document.		
16	Brief description of goods			
	Sl. No.	Name	Price of tender document	Tender security in Taka
	1	Pathology Reagent	Tk. 500/-	36,000/-
	2	Medical & Surgical Requisites (MSR)	Tk. 500/-	40,000/-
	3	Miscellaneous	Tk. 500/-	22,000/-
	4	Furniture	Tk. 500/-	45,000/-
	5	Medical Equipment for UN Mission	Tk. 500/-	19,500/-
	6	Medicine, Re-agent and other items for UN Mission	Tk. 500/-	45,000/-
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
17	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. AKM Nizam Uddin.		
18	Designation of official inviting tender	Superintendent.		
19	Address of official inviting tender	Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
20	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 88-02-8312075, Fax: 88-02-9342297		
21	Special instructions			
	a)	No tender will be received after the deadline for submission.		
	b)	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding.		
	c)	Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods.		
Dr. AKM Nizam Uddin Superintendent For Director (DIG) Central Police Hospital Bangladesh Police, Rajarbag, Dhaka Phone: 8312075, Fax: 9342297				
GD-4966				