

The life of a sadhu

ANDREW EAGLE, from
Chonaghat, Dinajpur

There's little to do when a baby is born with fever - not meaning fever of the ordinary sort but of a spiritual kind. When Santosh Chandra Kumar was born with fever most of a century ago in Manikganj, his parents considered it a miracle.

His father ran a rice wholesale business in Aricha. Together with his mother he accepted that his newborn son was blessed. They refused to let him cut his hair.

As a young man, Kumar disappeared suddenly from his family home to begin his geographic and spiritual journey.

Some twenty years ago it led him to Shahargachhi village in Dinajpur's Ghoraghat. He still lives there, in a tiny hut on a small plot of land donated by the local administration - part of a cemetery in a community peopled by ethnic minorities.

As he never married, Kumar lives alone.

"The villagers caught me," he says to explain the cessation of his wanderings. His life had changed by then: no longer was he Santosh Chandra Kumar. He'd become Ranjeet Babu, a Hindu ascetic, called a *sadhu*, which literally means "god man".

He never cut his hair. Ranjeet Babu, who says he is over eighty years old, has thickly matted locks that measure twelve feet and are so bulky he carries the final portion in a cloth pouch.

"There's something spiritual about him," says one of his neighbours, senior village police officer Sree Jamlal Robidas, 60.

According to Robidas when Ranjeet Babu first arrived, local police made enquiries in Manikganj and ascertained he was of good character. They also located his family, but

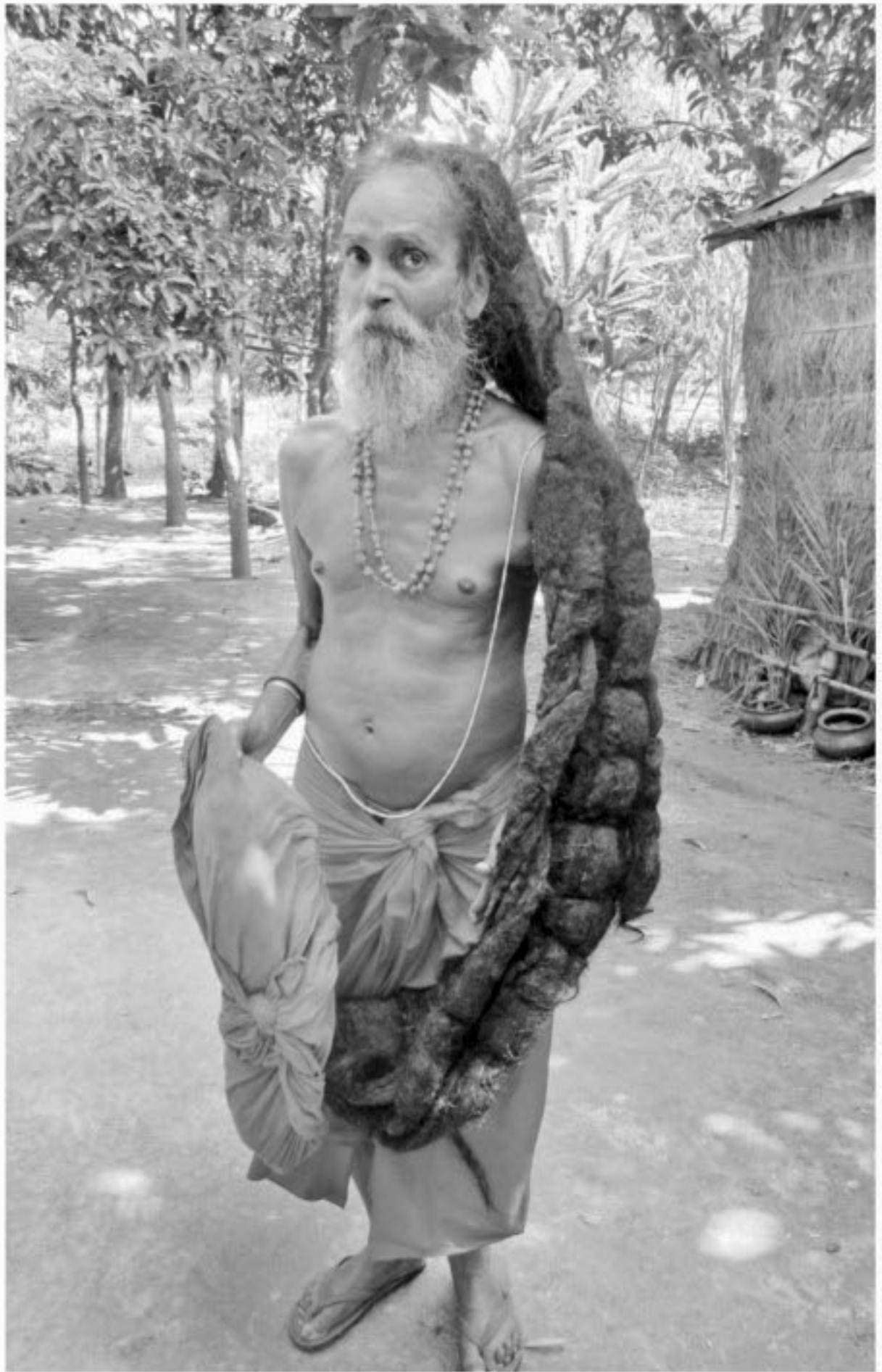


PHOTO: STAR

Sadhu Santosh Chandra Kumar stands beside his house at Shahargachhi village in Ghoraghat of Dinajpur.

when asked if they wished to reconnect with their son, they said they had long since forgotten him.

Their reply is unsurprising in the case of a *sadhu*, whose focus is on meditation and contemplation of *brahmacharya*, the unchanging reality of the world and beyond - although it is said *brahman* cannot be fully defined. A *sadhu's* aim is to reach the fourth and final stage of life, in the process achieving liberation called *moksha*. Theirs is a life of renunciation.

There are up to five million *sadhus* in India forming different sects. They are considered to be dead unto themselves. Becoming a *sadhu* sometimes involves attending one's own funeral. They are legally dead to the country of India. As such, perhaps

Ranjeet Babu's Earthly age is of no consequence.

It is usual for *sadhus* to adopt a new name. It is not out of the ordinary for them to reside in cemeteries. Some believe they can commune with ghosts. Sometimes Ranjeet Babu receives visitors who cook his food. At other times the local community provides it.

The community constructed a small Kali temple beside his hut and gave him rings of *panna* (emerald) stone, which is believed to keep one cool.

Asked what a good life is, Ranjeet Babu expresses concern. "Who's asking?" he says, "I can't say openly."

"I'm living a hard life," he continues, "for others to have a good one. I want that everyone should be happy. I am nothing."

Youth arrested for rape, taking video

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a youth from Mohananda Bridge area of Rehaichar in the district town on Wednesday evening on charge of raping a college girl, taking video and demanding money by blackmailing her.

The arrestee was identified as Mohammad Raju alias Rajon, 24, son of Taimur Rahman of Nayalavanga village under Shibganj upazila in the district.

Sources said, being refused several times, Raju abducted a girl of Chapainawabganj Women's College from Sonar More area, when she was going to a coaching centre on November 19.

Raju took the girl to his 'den', raped her and took video. He also threatened to kill her if she disclosed the matter to anyone.

Later, Raju demanded Tk 2 lakh from the girl, threatening to circulate the video footage on internet in case she failed to arrange the amount.

However, the girl told her mother about the matter.

Her family members lodged a complaint against Raju with Chapainawabganj Rab camp on November 25.

As per a plan, the family members called Raju to Mohananda Bridge area to give him Tk 2 lakh on November 26 and Rab members detained him from the spot.

They also seized the video from Raju's mobile phone, said major Kamruzzaman, commander of Chapainawabganj Rab camp.

Rab later handed him over to Sadar Model Police Station at night while the victim filed a rape case with the PS.

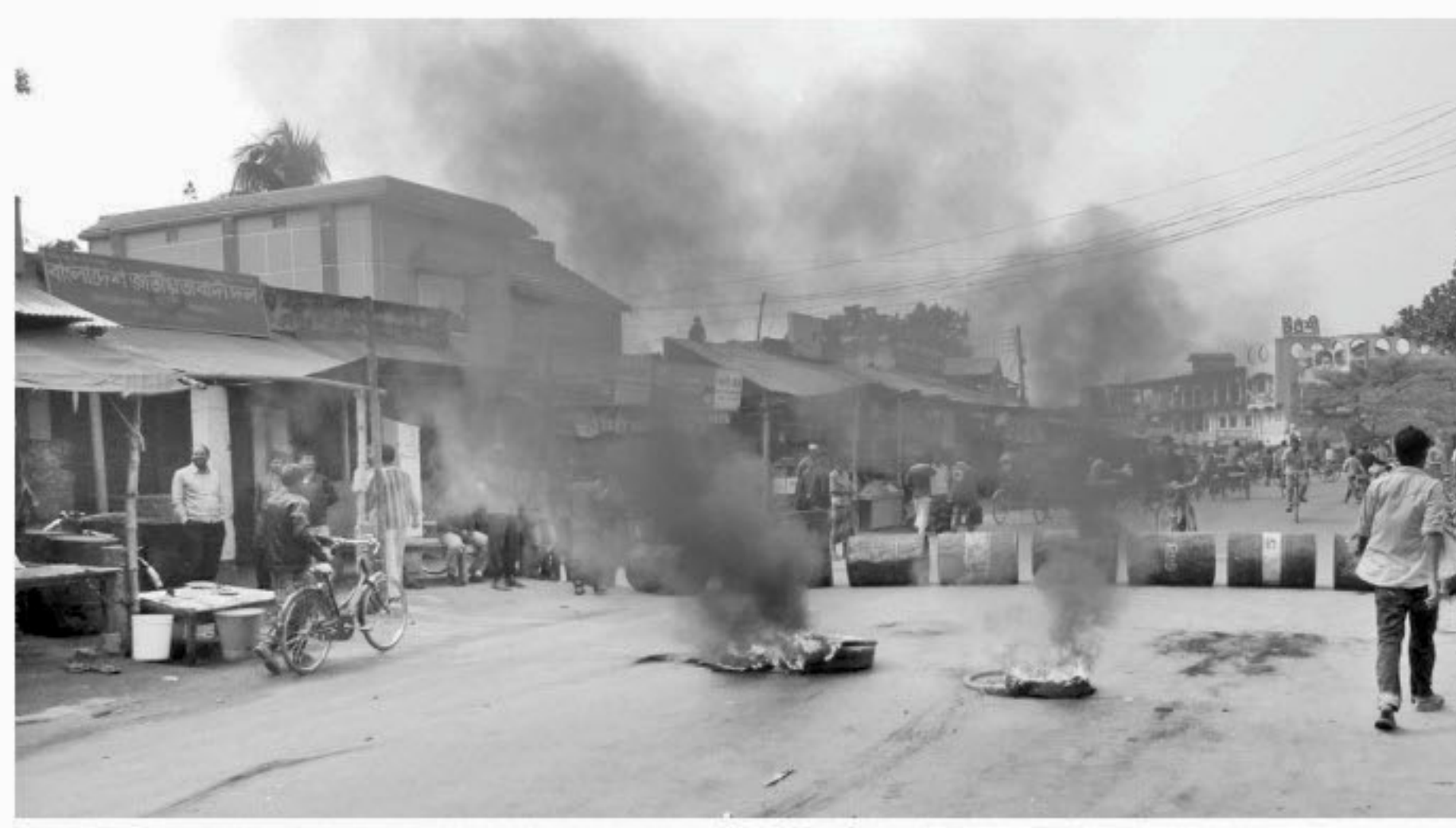


PHOTO: STAR

People of Phulbari put up a barricade and burn tyres on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway at Nimtola under Phulbari municipality yesterday, protesting the visit of Gary Lye, chief executive officer (CEO) of Asia Energy, on Wednesday.

PROTEST AGAINST VISIT BY ASIA ENERGY CEO Roadblock in Phulbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

People of Phulbari yesterday blocked Dinajpur-Dhaka Highway in Nimtola area under Phulbari municipality, protesting the visit of Gary Lye, chief executive officer (CEO) of Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh), to its local office on Wednesday.

They blocked the highway as part of the daylong road blockade programme announced by the local unit of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports on Wednesday.

The protesters burned tyres on the road at Nimtola intersection in the morning and took out processions at the upazila headquarters. Addressing a rally there, they asked Asia Energy not to go ahead with its plan for open-pit mining in the area and withdraw its office from Phulbari.

"We will not allow open-pit coal mine in Phulbari and elsewhere in the country," they said.

Vehicles went off the roads and shops and busi-

ness establishments also remained closed during the programme. Additional police were deployed at all key points in Phulbari and Asia Energy office.

On Wednesday, locals attacked Asia Energy office where Gary Lye, who arrived at Phulbari on November 24, was holding a meeting with the company's officials and some local agents.

The agitators brought out a procession in Phulbari town and blocked Dinajpur-

Dhaka highway in Nimtola area. Brandishing sticks, they marched towards the Asia Energy office at around 1:30pm, hurled brick chips at the office and vandalised two vehicles of the company. They also gave an ultimatum to CEO Gary Lye to leave Phulbari within an hour.

Police rushed to the spot, dispersed the agitators and brought the situation under control. Gary Lye left Phulbari for Dinajpur town under police escort.



PHOTO: STAR

Police guard the local office of Asia Energy at Phulbari upazila headquarters yesterday.

Seven hurt in Laxmipur gunfight

UNB, Laxmipur

At least seven people, including four policemen, were injured in a gunfight between police and a gang of criminals at Uttar Joypur in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Superintendent of police of Laxmipur Shah Mizan Safiur Rahman said a team of police launched a drive in Uttar Joypur area early in the morning to arrest fugitive accused and listed criminal Jewel.

Sensing the presence of the police team, Jewel and his associates opened fire on them, prompting the law enforcers to fire back that left three criminals, including Jewel, bullet-hit, and four policemen injured.

Three get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Netrakona

Additional District and Session Judge Abdul Hamid yesterday sentenced three people to life term imprisonment and fined Tk 50 thousands each, in default, to suffer 5 years more imprisonment for killing a rickshaw-puller.

The court also acquitted two others. The lifers are Abdur Rashid, 42, Alhaz Uddin, 37, and Hormuz Ali, 37, of village Adhpur under Sadar upazila.

The case in brief is that, on October 9 night in 2005 the convicted people killed Abul Kalam, 42, of the same village with sharp weapons when he was returning home from nearby Fasika Bazar due to previous enmity and threw the body in the nearby Mogra river.

Food and Agriculture Organization Of the United Nations

Invitation to Bid for Construction of Agri-Malls at Mymensingh

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations invites bids for Construction of Agri-malls at Mymensingh. Bids should be submitted in the format indicated in the ITB document. ITB documents can be downloaded from the organization's Website: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/bangladesh/procurement/ongoing-tenders/en/>. ITB must be submitted no later than 12:00 Hrs. 07 December 2014.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh
House # 37, Road # 8, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Phone: 811 8015-18, Fax: 58152025

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-2014-9116145
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Development and Administration of Harmonized Para Worker Training Package.

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. For detailed scope of work and how to submit proposals (technical and financial offers) please write to UNICEF at "supplybangladesh@unicef.org" or visit our website: http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/supply_4912.htm

The deadline to submit proposal is 14 December 2014 by 11:00 am.

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of solicitation process.

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Join the winning team **Kazi Farms**

Kazi Farms, one of the largest agro-industrial groups having around 6,500 employees active in various business areas including Poultry, Hatchery, Feed Mill, Ice Cream, Frozen Food, Information Technology and Television, is looking for the following position:

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Position	Chief Audit Officer/ General Manager - Audit
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Experience	15 years of work experience with minimum 3 years in Audit Firm

Brief Job Description:

- Plan and conduct the operational, financial and compliance audit to evaluate the effectiveness of internal control.
- Determine and ensure compliance with company policies, procedures and regulations.
- Research abreast of legislative issues, new audit regulations/trends and audit methodology to ensure both internal and external risk mitigation.
- Ensure verification of the collection & bank reconciliation and make recommendations where actions required.
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Additional job requirements:

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The candidates meeting the above mentioned criteria are requested to send their updated CV with a photograph to jobs@kazifarms.com or send hard copy within 5th December 2014 to the following address: HR Department, Kazi Farms Ltd., Abashar Bhaban (4th Floor), House # 75/A, Road # 5/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1209. Position applied for must be mentioned in the subject-line of the e-mail or on top of the envelope.

sysnova kazi farms kitchen

TEN-POINT DEMAND Students lock Bogra IHT building, block road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Over two hundred students of Institute of Health Technology (IHT) here yesterday locked their administrative building in the town to press home their 10-point demand.

The demands include, establishing a separate Bangladesh Diploma Medical Board, holding examinations in due time, reducing session-fees and appointment of experienced teachers.

The agitated students under the banner of Chhatra Sangram Parishad blocked the Sherpur-Bogra road for nearly an hour by

burning tyres and chanting slogans in favour of their demands.

Later, they removed the barricades after several high officials of the district police rushed to the spot and assured them of placing their demands the authorities concerned, said AHM Foyzur Rahman, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

Aynul Haque, convener of the Chhatra Sangram Parishad, said earlier they brought out a rally on November 15 and staged a human chain programme on November 26 to press home their demands.

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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ঃ বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় অন্যান্য ভাতাদিসহ টাঃ ১৫০০০-৭০০x১৬-২৬২০০/- বেতন স্কেলে (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০০৯) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রারের অফিসের ১টি শূন্য সহকারী রেজিস্ট্রার পদ পূরণের জন্য ৫০ (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে রেজিস্ট্রারের দপ্তরে প্রাপ্ত্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। প্রার্থীকে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রিধারী হইতে হইবে এবং শিক্ষা জীবনের সকল পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী থাকিতে হইবে। প্রার্থীকে কম্পিউটার চালনায় অভিজ্ঞ হইতে হইবে। প্রার্থীকে উচ্চ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে সেকশন অফিসার/সমপর্যায় ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসর কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন পর্যায়ে তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। রেজিস্ট্রারের অনুকূলে প্রদেয় ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এবং সকল সার্টিফিকেট ও প্রশংসাপত্রের সত্যায়িত প্রতিলিপিসহ ৮ (আট) প্রস্থ দরখাস্ত আগামী ২২-১২-২০১৪ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রারের নিকট পৌছাইতে হইবে। চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত করিতে হইবে।

জিডি-৪৪৮৪

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-2014-9115981
Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop communication materials and conduct Campaign on New Born Health.

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. For detailed scope of work and how to submit bid offer please write to UNICEF at "supplybangladesh@unicef.org" or visit our website: http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/supply_4912.htm

The deadline to submit bid response is 10 December 2014 by 11:00 am.

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of solicitation process.

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Australia Awards

Make a difference with an Australia Awards Scholarship English language requirements

Do you want to be a leader in your field and make a real difference in Bangladesh? Through the prestigious Australia Awards Scholarship program, you can become part of a new generation of global citizens with strong links to Australia.

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Australia Awards Scholarships will be offered at postgraduate levels in priority development themes aligned with the development needs of Bangladesh.

Eligibility

You are encouraged to complete IELTS, TOEFL or PTE language examinations well before your application is due. To be eligible you must be an employee of the Government of Bangladesh (BCS or Judicial service or Bangladesh Bank), icddr, BRAC, working in water resources or be a member of an ethnic minority community. You must also have completed English language testing with the results valid as at 1 January 2016.

The following minimum standards in English proficiency are required:

- IELTS (Academic) - a minimum overall score of at least 6.5 with no band less than 6.0;
- TOEFL - a minimum paper-based test score of at least 580, a minimum of 4.5 in the test of written English or an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 92, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests; or
- PTE - an academic overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50.

Women will be considered with an overall IELTS band of at least 6.0 with no band less than 5.5 (or equivalent TOEFL or PTE score). However, they must meet the standard English language requirement of their course, if offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Applicants with a disability and from ethnic minority groups will be considered with an overall IELTS band score of at least 6.0 with no band less than 5.0 (or equivalent TOEFL or PTE score). However, they must meet the standard English language requirement of their course, if offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Further information

Visit www.australiaawards.gov.au for more information about the Australia Awards. Visit www.australiaawardsbangladesh.org for country-specific information.

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