

## Developers to get quick green clearance

### Minister tells REHAB fair closing ceremony

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Forest and Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj Friday said he has directed the officials concerned to issue real estate developers with environmental clearance certificates within the shortest possible time.

The minister said he is aware of the long-drawn process and assured the developers if the Department of Environment (DoE) fails to issue the certificates within due time he will take initiatives to

issue it within seven days. Getting environmental clearance from the DoE remains one of the major hassles for the developers.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the four-day housing fair, organised by the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

REHAB President Toufiq M

Seraj, General Secretary and Convener of the fair Mahmudul Hassan, Prime Bank Chairman Shah Mohammad Nurul Alam, Cemex Bangladesh Limited Managing Director Enrique Luna and Amin Mohammad Group Chairman were also present.

However, the minister admitted due to manpower shortage it sometimes becomes difficult to issue the letter within due time.

Speaking on the occasion, REHAB president said the present lending rates on house loans are the

highest in the world and urged the financial institutions to reduce the rates.

Representatives of financial institutions which participated in the fair said as they secure finance from banks and it would not be possible for them to reduce the rate unless the commercial banks reduces its lending rate.

Chairman of Prime Bank Shah Mohammad Nurul Alam said they are trying to reduce the rate but due to certain problems it is taking time. He however did not elaborate.

## BGMEA election Forum-Sammilita Parishad vows to fight post-MFA era



PHOTO: STAR  
Anisul Huq (L), leader of Forum, and Kazi Moniruzzaman, leader of Sannmilita Parishad, join hands at a press conference in the city yesterday where they said the two groups are jointly contesting in the upcoming BGMEA election.

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Leaders of two groups jointly contesting in the upcoming BGMEA election said the main objective of their alliance is to share the responsibility for preparing the country's largest export-oriented sector to face the challenges of the open market after 2004.

Leaders of the groups-- Sannmilita Parishad and Forum -- said the main objective of the unity is not to share leadership. "Rather to share the responsibility in a bid to face the challenges of post multi-fibre agreement," said Anisul Huq, leader of Forum, at a press conference at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Other leader of the joint panel, Kazi Moniruzzaman of Sannmilita Parishad, said the country's RMG exporters have so far enjoyed special facility under quota arrangement that expires after 2004.

"As we have different problems at home and our competition with other countries is going to be intensified, the BGMEA leadership needs to be more dynamic," Moniruzzaman added.

Two main groups have been participating in the Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) polls with separate panels and leading the association for the last ten years, he mentioned.

"If we want to retain our present status in the global market, we need to cooperate with each other," said Moniruzzaman, who is also vice president of the existing body.

Responding to a query, he mentioned many garment factories were shut down before and after September 11 terrorist attack in the US. But things are changing gradually and some factories have started working again as orders are increasing.

"We would work to expand our market. Export in Canada would go up due to duty free market access from January 1 next year and it would ultimately increase orders and help many exporters to reopen their factories," Moniruzzaman observed.

On another question, Anisul Huq said discussion between the two groups is on and the panel will be finalised within few days. "Contesting in next election jointly is not very unexpected as we have been working for this for the last four years."

## Libra Infusions declares 15pc dividend

Libra Infusions Ltd declared 15pc dividend for its shareholders for the year 2001-2002, says a press release.

The decision was made at the 24th annual general meeting of the company held in the city on Tuesday.

Chairman of the company Samsunnahar Ahasanullah, Director Ayasa Alam, Alternate Director M ARashid, Representative Director of Bangladesh Shilpo Bank A S M Shahjahan, representative from ICB and shareholders of the company, were present at the meeting.

## Pakistan aims to export 4 lakh MT of sugar

REUTERS, Karachi

Flushed by surplus stock and backed by government concessions, Pakistan's sugar industry aims to export 400,000 tonnes of refined sugar in 2003, industry officials said Friday.

They said state-managed Sugar Export Board (SEB) would monitor the exports planned in four tranches of 100,000 tonnes each over the next calendar year.

## CURRENCY

The following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buying	OD Sight	Doc	OD Transfer
59.0500	59.1000	USD	58.1300	57.9614			57.8929
62.4348	62.5217	EUR	59.9530	59.7696			59.6930
95.5596	95.6016	GBP	92.5268	92.2603			92.2057
33.9955	34.0201	AUD	31.9185	31.8261			31.7460
0.4961	0.4962	JPY	0.4803	0.4801			0.4791
42.7866	42.8111	CHF	41.4415	41.3470			41.2625
6.77587	6.7809	SEK	6.5430	6.5254			6.5094
37.8338	37.8583	CAD	36.8378	36.7442			36.6610
7.5793	7.5806	HKD	7.4487	7.4310			7.4136
34.159	34.1808	SGD	33.3319	33.2881			33.1734
16.2069	16.2245	AED	15.6901	15.6682			15.6497
15.8695	15.8879	SAR	15.3837	15.3470			15.3288

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Norokroner	NZ dollar	AUD
47.96	58.175	96.55	43.285	6.9773	0.51985	3.8000

### ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadyCash raffle draw took place last Thursday at Ambala Sweets, Dhanmandi in the city, says a press release.

Kamruzzaman, manager of the shop, chose the winners in the draw. This is part of the commitment ReadyCash undertakes to reward its cardholders.

Prizes for new cardholders

Prizes	Name of winners	Card No
China Junction Chinese free lunch for two	Sherin Sultana	5047980000045470
Meal in the box free lunch for two	Kh. Iqbal Hossain	5047980000045495
DhanSiri restaurant free lunch dinner for two	Taher Bin Mohammad	5047980000045459
Body Shop free gift box	ANM Mainuddin	5047980000045454
CD care, free 4 CDs	Md Washiuddin Rizve	5047980000045485

Winners can collect their prizes from the executive, promotion of ReadyCash, within 30 days of this news circulation by producing their ReadyCash card transaction vouchers. ReadyCash encourages its cardholders to read The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday or call ReadyCash Customer Service at 8123850, 8130497, and 8125294-7.

## Malaysian firm coming up with mushroom-based items

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

DXN Marketing Sdn. Bhd., a Malaysian company, is going to formally launch its mushroom-based health, food and consumer products in the country.

The company will operate through Dhaka-based Daehsan (Bangladesh) Private Limited to market its products.

The products of the company include Reishi Gano, a kind of mushroom essence; Ganoceillum, a mushroom containing vitamins and minerals; Lingzhi coffee; black coffee; Gano soap; toothpaste; shampoo; body foam; and massage oil.

Of the items, Reishi Gano and Ganoceillum are available in capsule.

Daehsan's Country Manager Ghazali A Samad, at a press conference yesterday, said anyone can be the distributor of DXN products.

The products are expected to hit the market formally from January next year.

Launched in 1993 in Malaysia, DXN is now operating business in more than 25 countries including the USA, the UK and India with over three million distributors, Samad

said. Daehsan officials Ehsan Ali, KM Rafiqul and Mustafizur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: EXIM BANK  
Mohammed Lakiotullah, managing director of EXIM Bank, and Rafiqul Islam Khan, managing director of National Bank Ltd, sign an agency agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in the city on Tuesday.

## EXIM Bank signs agency deal with NBL

Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited signed an agency agreement with National Bank Ltd (NBL) in the city on Tuesday, says a press release.

Under the agreement, clients of EXIM Bank will be able to avail themselves of remittance facilities such as TTs, DDs, etc. at the branches of National Bank Ltd.

Mohammed Lakiotullah, managing director of EXIM Bank, and Rafiqul Islam Khan, managing director of National Bank Ltd, signed the agreement. Alamgir Kabir, Advisor to EXIM Bank, was present.

Mohammed Mubarak Hussein, DMD, Md Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, SEVP, Md Karimuzzaman, SVP, Fazlur Rahman, VP, Akhtar Hossain, VP, Md Humayun Kabir, Kh Nayeemul Kabir, Noor Hossain Chowdhury, Shah Md Abdul Bari, Sheikh Bashirul Islam, SAVPs of EXIM Bank, and Nazmul Hossain, SVP and Iftekhhar Hossain, AVP of NBL, were also present.

## STOCK