

Make all-out efforts to tap all potentials for mutual benefit

CA urges Bhutanese envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said Bangladesh and Bhutan should make all-out efforts to tap all potentials to the mutual benefit of the two South Asian countries.

He said this when newly appointed Bhutanese Ambassador Tshering Dorji made a courtesy call on him at the Chief Adviser's Office.

Exploring surplus hydroelectricity in Bhutan for the benefit of both the countries was also discussed.

The chief adviser said Bangladesh attached importance to its relations with Bhutan and noted that "trade is an important composition in improving bilateral ties".

He also emphasised people-to-people contact for expansion of the bilateral relations.

The new Bhutanese envoy said Bhutan also gives importance to its relationship with Bangladesh and assured that he would work during his tenure to improve further the bilateral relations, particularly in trade and commerce.

The chief adviser appreciated the achievements of the 4th King of Bhutan and hoped that the leadership of the 5th King would also carry forward tasks in similar dynamism.

The envoy said the Bhutanese King, despite having tremendous support of the people, is introducing democracy in the country.

Fakhruddin appreciated the

monarch's initiative to introduce a new system in the country.

Ambassador Tshering Dorji appreciated the achievements of the present caretaker government of Bangladesh, specially its drive against corruption and steps to strengthen democracy and good governance.

The chief adviser apprised the envoy of measures undertaken by his government, saying "Everything is being done for holding a free, fair and credible election for giving a sustainable shape to democracy in the country".

Secretary to the Chief Adviser's office Kazi M Aminul Islam and CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim were present.

Debapriya calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, the newly appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN Office in Geneva, made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday prior to the joining of his new assignment.

Dr Debapriya thanked the president and the government for appointing him to this challenging and prestigious post.

Seeking cooperation from the president and all concerned in discharging his duties, Debapriya expressed his hope that he would do his best for the interest of Bangladesh. The president assured him of all cooperation.

Military Secretary to the President Major General M Aminul Karim, Secretary M Sirajul Islam and Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present on the occasion.

BBC programme on climate change from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) launches a month-long programme titled 'Nodipathay Bangladesh' (Bangladesh by the river) today to explore the impacts of climate change on the country and its people.

Chartering a boat, the BBC team will tour major rivers, specially those in the southern part of the country, and will broadcast different issues about the climate change including voice of rural people to global audience.

This was stated at a press conference held at the chartered boat of BBC at the Paglaghat in Narayanganj yesterday.

Nazes Afroz, executive editor of South Asian desk, and Sabir Mustafa, head of Bangla Service, spoke at the press conference which was conducted by Masud Hasan Khan, senior producer of BBC Bangla Service.

The speakers said a team of BBC journalists on radio, on television and online will travel more than 200 miles along the Padma, Meghna, Jamuna and other rivers and the BBC will broadcast personal stories, views and features of local communities from the boat every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30pm.

For the first time in its history, the BBC is going to broadcast and telecast news, features and documentaries in 17 languages including Arabic, Azeri, Bangla, Brazilian, Burmese, Chinese, Hindi, English, Indonesian, Pashto, Persian, Romanian, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili and Urdu about the climate change and its effect on the people of Bangladesh, they added.

Nazes Afroz said it is an effort to reach the thoughts and voices of people who are vulnerable to climate change, to global audience. Sabir Mustafa said beside covering and raising the debate of climate change issue, it will provide them with a unique chance to cover lifestyle and culture of Bangladesh people from the grass-roots level.

With a bunch of local and foreign staffs of BBC on board, the boat started its journey from Paglaghat yesterday and would broadcast its first programme from Chandpur this evening.

While visiting different places, the BBC would arrange four Bangladesh Sanglap programme from Bhola, Mongla, Sirajganj and Rajbari engaging the local people.

Expat Bangladeshis in UAE donate Tk 40 lakh for flood victims

BSS, Dhaka

The non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in the UAE donated over Tk 40 lakh to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the victims of the recent flooding in Bangladesh.

In the wake of recent floods, Bangladesh Embassy in the UAE had opened accounts of Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund with the Janata Bank branches in Abu Dhabi, Dubai Sharjah and Al Ain.

Following Bangladesh Ambassador's appeal, the non-resident Bangladeshis in the UAE, belonging to various walks of life, responded by contributing to the fund to help the flood affected people in the country.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Nazimullah Chowdhury thanked the NRBs for their generous contribution and expressed his deep satisfaction at the expression of solidarity shown by the Bangladeshis living in the UAE and said their contribution would go a long way towards alleviating the sufferings of the flood victims.

The donations, reflecting broad participation of the community to the cause, came from individuals, social organisations, Bangladeshi businessmen and entrepreneurs, students and teachers as well as the youths.

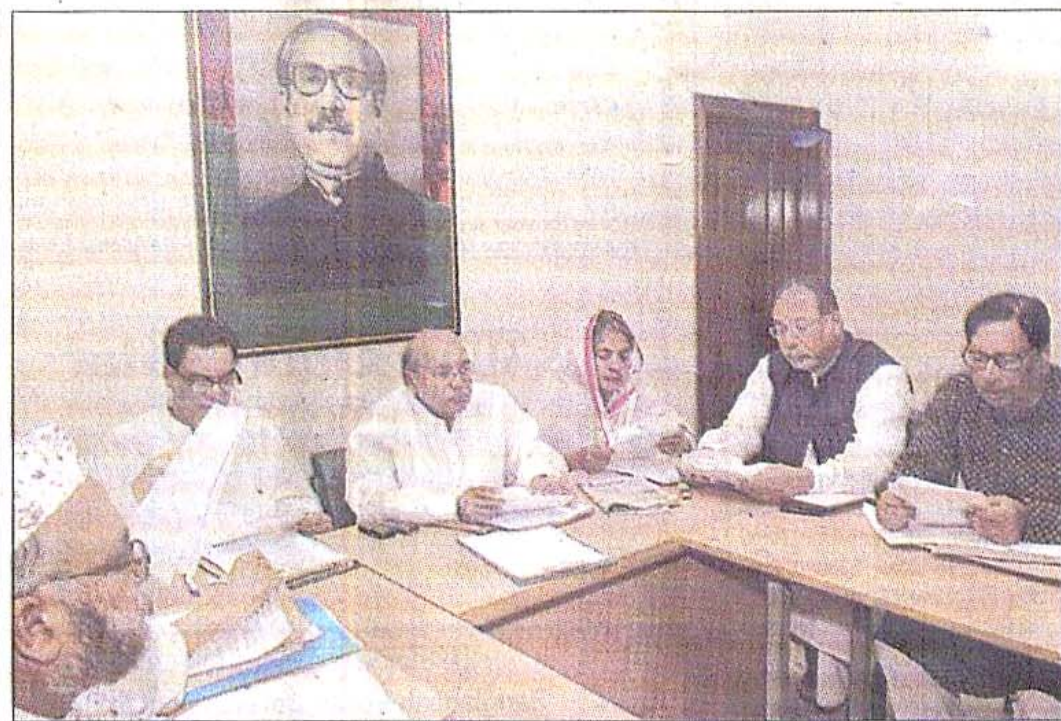


PHOTO: STAR

Awami League's (AL) committee for dialogue with the Election Commission over electoral reforms holds a meeting at the party chief Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Train weavers to protect traditional Benarasi sari

Speakers tell workshop

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for providing training to Benarasi weaving community in modern design and marketing to keep the traditional Benarasi sari alive.

The two-day workshop on a project titled 'Strengthening skill of the weavers in techniques, design and marketing for sustainable development with a gender perspective' was organised by Women for Women, a research study group, in cooperation with UNESCO Dhaka at Al-Fuad Community Centre in Mirpur Section 6, says a press release.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Dr Mahmuda Islam, president of Women for Women, said the workshop is aimed to find out the present situation of Benarasi weavers and how to improve their condition.

"By means of strengthening the skills of the weavers and enabling them to market their products efficiently, this project seeks to promote the country's indigenous art and crafts," said Hassan A

Keynan, officer-in-charge of UNESCO, who was present on the occasion as special guest.

Parveen Ahmed, project coordinator, and Nilufar Banu, project supervisor, said due to various constraints including shortage of

space, low income, ever-declining demand and huge inflow of Indian saris, the weaver community in Mirpur is facing the greatest ever challenge.

As such, this traditional craft, which has become a part of Bangladesh's cultural heritage, needs patronisation for its survival and flourishing further.

Speaking as chief guest Abdur Rashid Sarker, secretary to textile and jute ministry, assured that the government is aware of the difficulties facing the weavers.

He mentioned that the government has already decided to shift the Benarasi Palli on a 40-acre land at Bhasantek where more than 900 members of the community would be provided with living and working space.

But unfortunately a case has kept the implementation of the project pending for years, he added.

Chairman of Bangladesh Handloom Board Abdul Hakim Mondol also spoke on the occasion.

Workshop on right to information begins today

A three-day workshop on 'Advocacy for Right to Information (RTI) in Bangladesh' begins at Spectra Convention Centre in the city today, says a press release.

It has been organised jointly by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiatives (CHRI) of India.

Twenty-nine NGO professionals from Ain O Salish Kendro, BNNRC, D net, CAB, TIB, Shamunay, BNNLA, Amader Gram, MMC, SUPRO, Steps, ADD, ESDO, MLAA, RIC, PSTC and MJF will take part in the workshop.

Manusher Jonno Foundation has identified RTI as a key development issue and is taking the lead in the advocacy for enactment of the RTI Act.

Various issues related to RTI philosophy and advocacy will be discussed in the workshop.

Two resource persons Venkatesh Nayak and Sohini Paul from CHRI will facilitate the sessions along with Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, Khushi Kabir, executive director of Nijera Kori, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, head of news at ATN Bangla, and Barrister Tanjib Ullah.



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of M M Rezaul Karim, former Ambassador, Social worker, Rotarian and Columnist.

On this occasion his family members have requested friends, admirers and relatives to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Salma Karim, Seema Karim, Shahed Karim, Shaida and Alisha

D-884

Low over Bay likely to intensify further

UNB, Dhaka

A low has formed over southwest Bay and adjoining southeast Bay in the morning and intensified into a well-marked low over the same area at about 3:00pm yesterday.

"It is likely to intensify further," said a Met Office bulletin.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist distant cautionary signal number one.

All fishing-boats and trawlers over the North Bay and deep sea must come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

Micro-credit project for affected rickshaw-pullers

BSS, Dhaka

Rickshaw-pullers displaced by a ban on non-mechanised transports in certain roads in Dhaka city will get technical training and micro-credits to shift into other professions under a World Bank (WB) assisted project.

Any existing non-motorised transport pullers can also be brought under this programme, if previously affected rickshaw-pullers were not identified, said a WB note.

According to the note, the World Bank is supporting a government initiative that will allow Dhaka urban rickshaw-pullers to access microfinance for improving their livelihood.

Palli Karma Shahayak

Foundation (PKSF) is implementing this \$15-million Additional Financing for Second Poverty Alleviation Microfinancing project of the government.

Recently selected 10 partner organisations have started mobilising the affected rickshaw-pullers and assessing their training needs.

This project will cover around 40,000 non-mechanised transport pullers and poor owners and will end on June 30, 2009.

The emerging challenges of the initiative will be addressed successfully by PKSF and partners to highlight the fact that microcredit can effectively provide solution to various livelihood challenges of different categories of poor people, hoped the World Bank.

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 - Construction and maintenance of roads including box culverts and bridges; earthen dike enclosure; underground and surface storm water and oily water drainage system; various concrete & structural steel structures
 - Construction & maintenance of river jetty facilities;
- Ensure that all work is carried-out in accordance with universally accepted engineering standards and procedure, method statements, etc;
- Ensure that risk assessments and job safety analysis have been undertaken and discussed with the supervisors or contractors prior to commencement of any work activity if the activity has any potential risk to equipment or personnel;
- Administer handling of contractor - assessment of contractors' performance and quality of work; evaluation of contractors' progress for reporting and billing purposes;
- Conduct preparation of specifications, scope of works and other technical data needed for the preparation of quotations or tender/bid documents;
- Evaluate quotations and tender documents related to civil works and subsequently, prepare recommendations to the management for awards and contract proceedings;
- Routinely review the contractors' scope within his area as detailed in drawings, specifications and instructions, ensuring contractors proper interpretation and compliance with latest revision drawings and/or specifications;
- Participate and implement safety of workers, environment and Company facilities at all times in all work places in accordance with Company HES policies;

Minimum Requirements:

- A graduate in Civil Engineering with at least 10 years of relevant experience or a diploma in Civil Engineering with at least 15 years experience;
- Good working habits and willingness to work in a multi-cultural environment;
- Strong communication skills in both English and Bangla;

This will be a contract position. Initial contract period will be for 2 years. This may be extended further depending on Company's requirements and candidate's performance. Those who applied earlier for this post need not apply again.

Applications are invited either online at www.bdjobs.com/chevron or to the following address on or before 5 November, 2007. Only short-listed applicants will be called for assessment(s);

Human Resources Department
Chevron Bangladesh
"Bay's Galleria"
57 Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

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