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UZ chairmen need training on their jobs

Suggest local govt experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen of upazila parishads should be provided training on their responsibilities so that they can play a vital role in running and strengthening the local bodies.

They will have to prepare five-year development plans for their respective areas, and the local government bodies have to be allowed to draw up their budgets for implementing these plans.

Local government experts expressed these views at a roundtable on 'Responsibilities in establishing effective and strong local government' in the capital yesterday.

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Pranab visit may see 2 deals signed

Security, trade, water sharing to top agenda

REZAUL KARIM

Security, bilateral trade, border management and water sharing issues will top the agenda during Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's daylong visit in Dhaka on February 9.

His visit will provide the first high-level contact between the two countries since the Sheikh Hasina's government returned to power through a massive victory on December 29 general election.

Official sources said Bangladesh wants to discuss all bilateral issues with India with an open mind while India has also a broad-based agenda with Bangladesh, particularly transit and security.

Though Pranab cut short his two-day visit to a daylong trip as he is currently discharging additional responsibilities in the absence of Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who is recuperating from a coronary heart bypass surgery.

During the visit, Bangladesh and India may sign two key agreements on bilateral trade, and investment promotion and protection. The trade agreement needs to be signed as the existing three-year bilateral trade agreement will expire in March this year and be renewed through a fresh accord.

The investment promotion and protection agreement will be necessary since there is a trend of investment flow from

either side. Indian investors will come to invest in Bangladesh or vice versa.

Bangladesh is expecting to ease the irritants with India and settle bilateral issues during the External Minister's brief visit, official sources said, adding that Dhaka is eagerly waiting to welcome Pranab Mukherjee considering the visit as an important move to strengthen relations between the neighbours.

Sources said India would heavily pursue for transit and setting up of a joint anti-terrorism taskforce. Diplomatic sources said India will formally seek transit for goods movement and Pranab Mukherjee during his talks with top

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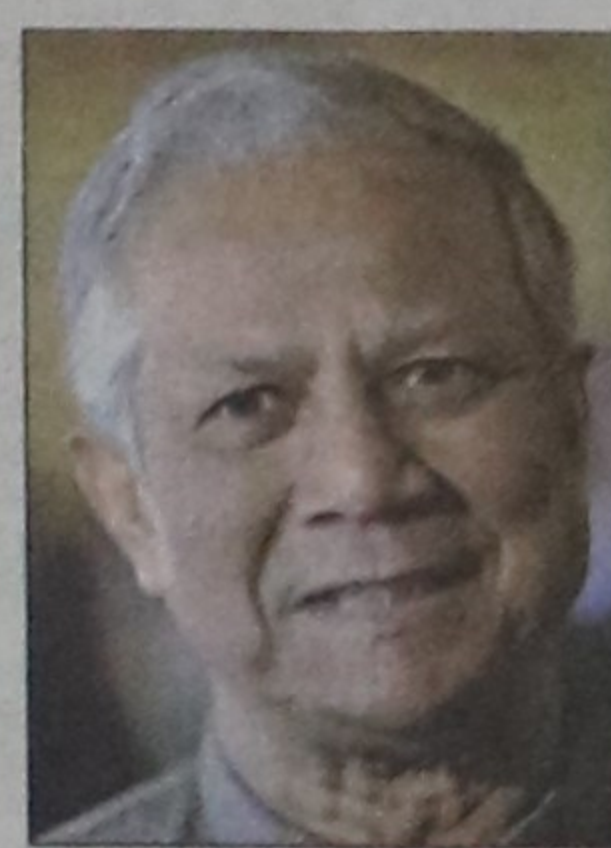
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM Yunus for bailout package for poor

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus told the just-concluded World Economic Forum in Davos that world's poor people would be the most affected by the ongoing global financial crisis.

Prof Yunus, a panellist at the Davos Philanthropic Roundtable, said when the world is busy talking about bailout packages for companies, at the same time it is needed to design similar packages for the poor.

Former US President Bill Clinton, billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates and former British prime minister Tony Blair were present, among



others, at the discussion, says a release from Yunus Secretariat.

The theme of the 39th World Economic Forum this year was 'Shaping the Post Crisis World.'

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Priyanka Gandhi due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Priyanka Gandhi, the daughter of ruling Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi of India, will arrive Dhaka this afternoon on a two-day visit to observe Brac's education programme.

On her arrival at 3:30 pm at the Zia International Airport on board a Jet Airlines, Brac Executive Director Mahbub Hossain, Director Ahmed Nazmul Hossain and high officials of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka will receive her.

From the airport, she will go to Savar to visit Brac pre-primary school at Charabag village and a primary school at Kumkumari village. Later, she will visit the training programme for schoolteachers

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Climate change bodies set up for action plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed two separate high-powered committees to prepare climate change strategies and deal with the fund so that people get the maximum benefits of around Tk 300 crore allocated in the budget.

Two committees--strategy and action plan committee and fund operation committee--were formed at the regular cabinet meeting held at the cabinet division with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Approving the climate change policy, the prime minister asked the action plan committee headed by Planning Minister

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Old building's ceiling breaks off partially 3 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three women sustained injuries as a large portion of the ceiling of a century-old building collapsed last night in the city's Shankharibazar.

The injured were Kanchanlata, 65, her daughter Anjali Sen, 42 and her grand daughter Popi Shur.

Pakhi Sen, husband of Anjali Sen, said a large portion of the ceiling fell on the

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11 killed as SL hospital shelled

Colombo says no guarantee for civilians as fighting escalates

AFP, AP, Colombo

Shells hit a crowded hospital in northeast Sri Lanka, killing at least 11 people and raising fears yesterday for thousands of civilians caught in a final military push against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Heavy fighting erupted in the narrow strip of land where the rebels have been cornered, the defence ministry said adding that troops used war planes to bomb suspected Tiger positions while the rebels used artillery.

Sri Lanka yesterday warned tens of thousands of civilians inside the northern war zone to move to a government-designated safe area or risk getting caught up in the crossfire with Tamil Tiger rebels.

The government said in a statement that it could not guarantee the security of civilians inside the 300-square kilometre (110-square mile) area where the Tigers have been cornered by a major military offensive.

"The government calls on all civilians to enter the demarcated 'safety zone' as soon as possible to ensure their safety and security," the statement said.

The ministry said a total of 46 Tiger rebels were killed in

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PHOTO: STAR

Parents of drug addict Majnu Mia, 25, in fetters, hand him over to Ahsania Mission rehabilitation centre in Dhanmodi in the capital failing to control his habit. Hailing from Taraganj in Rangpur, the parents kept him in fetters for the last two years to stop him from using drugs.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman browses through books at a stall of Amar Ekushey book fair at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

Book fair draws huge crowd

RAKIB AHAMMED

Huge crowds marked the second day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday as people waited in long queues to pass police security points to enter the fair compound.

Policemen were kept busy the entire afternoon at the two entry points of the book fair as people poured in at large numbers amidst enthusiasm and curiosity.

The annual book fair is the largest gathering of readers, writers and publishers in the country. The entrance to the Bangla Academy premises was thronged by booklovers long before the fair opened its gates to the public at 3:00pm.

Around 22 new books -- novels, poetry, history, essay, children's books -- were launched from 15 publications yesterday. Comparatively though, the sales were not as high.

Readers and visitors were

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Free dorms from illegal occupants

Demand Jagannath University students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Jagannath University (JNU) yesterday staged demonstration demanding immediate opening of the institution and recovery of their dormitories occupied by different quarters.

They held the protest

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Prayer Timing		
February 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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স্থান : ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স, বাংলাদেশ, রমনা, ঢাকা।
তারিখ : আজ মঙ্গলবার, ফেব্রুয়ারী ৩, ২০০৯
সময় : বিকাল ৫ টা থেকে রাত ১০ টা পর্যন্ত
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