



Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar shakes hands with Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus during his visit to the Grameen Headquarters at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Dhaka, Delhi to go for long-term cooperation in agri research

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Bangladesh and India will go for long-term cooperation in agricultural research and technology to fight natural disasters affecting crops in vast parts of the two countries. "Geographical conditions in many parts of India and Bangladesh are similar. Both the countries face problems of salinity, drought and floods. We have agreed to share our experiences to increase productivity of pulses, vegetables, fruits, rice, wheat and oil-seeds," Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said yesterday. She was briefing journalists after a meeting with Sharad Pawar, Indian Union Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the capital.

Pawar arrived in Dhaka on Thursday on a three-day visit. Matia, who accepted an invitation to visit India soon, said scientists from the two neighbouring countries will share their expertise on the latest agricultural technology and the way of using them to increase productivity. She also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her India visit would discuss with the Indian side the issues of salinity in Bangladesh's south-western parts and desertification of northern districts because of shortfall in water in the Padma river originated in India. Sharad Pawar said they agreed to exchange technological knowledge for dealing with the problems of salinity and flood affecting rice production in West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. He said India has made

some breakthroughs in pulses production and Bangladesh can be benefited from it. Pawar said the Indian people are happy about the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh. "I hope Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to India will be able to resolve many problems," the Indian minister said. Maharashtra's Rural Development Minister Jayant Patil, Minister for Higher and Technical Education Rajesh Tope, and Bangladesh's Agriculture Secretary CQK Mushtaq were present at the meeting. **PAWAR VISITS GRAMEEN BANK** Sharad Pawar called on Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus at the Grameen Bank headquarters

in Mirpur and had discussion on the bank's operations. Pawar's wife Pratibha Pawar, daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule, and two other ministers from Maharashtra accompanied him. They have been keeping tracks of Grameen Bank's operations and exploring the possibilities of introducing microcredit programmes in Maharashtra. "Grameen Bank has shown the path to resolve the most difficult problem of the world that is poverty. Poverty-less globe is not a dream, it will be reality," Sharad Pawar wrote in a comment book after visiting the Nobel Peace Prize Gallery there. Supriya and the two ministers from Maharashtra will visit several Grameen Bank branches today.

Sec 144 at Bhaluka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bhaluka Upazila administration imposed Section 144 on Bhaluka Pilot Girls School premises and its adjoining areas yesterday as the local units of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called meetings at the same venue and same time. Marking the completion of the grand alliance government's one year, BCL convened a meeting on the school premises at 3:00pm yesterday marking completion of one year of the grand alliance government. JCD also convened a meeting at the same venue and same time to observe its anniversary, police said. To avoid any untoward incident, the local administration imposed Section 144, said officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station. Later, JCD held their meeting on Alimunessa Girls School premises in the afternoon and BCL postponed their programme, police said.

PIRACY IN BAY OF BENGAL Fishermen demand security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The fishermen in the coastal areas yesterday demanded their security in the sea as the pirates have become alarmingly active of late. Speaking at the Coastal Fishermen's Festival, they claimed that at present there are seven to eight groups of pirates active in the Bay of Bengal who are not only taking their fishes and belongings away, but also tying fishermen up and throwing them in the sea. Community Development Centre is organising the three-day festival at Baharchhara in the town. Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the festival by lighting candles. Former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation

Rina Roy and District Commissioner Mohammad Gias Uddin Ahmed were also present. Abdul Nabi, a fisherman of Nuniyachhata village, said there is no government security force to protect the fishermen. As the members of naval forces and coast guard do not go deep into the sea, pirates roam around at large, he added. President of Cox's Bazaar Fishing Boat Owners' Association Muzibur Rahman said a total of 38 fishermen fell victims to the pirates in 2009. Speaking at the programme, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the government is keen to ensure the fishermen's rights and security. The government has taken different steps to ensure their economic development, he added.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST GAYESWAR Court decision on charge framing Feb 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will give its decision on February 4 whether charge would be framed against BNP standing committee member Gayeswar Chandra Roy in a case of amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about it from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Judge Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 fixed the date on Thursday after hearing on the discharge petition filed by Gayeswar's lawyers. During the hearing, Gayeswar's lawyers told the court that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him. The ACC had earlier pressed charge against their client without bringing any factual evidences about the corruption, they said.

People lay siege to DC office in Natore

UNB, Natore

Local people staged a demonstration and laid a siege to the Deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday demanding gas supply in the district through pipeline. They also held rally in front of the Central Mosque at about 11:30am in the town and put up barricades on Natore-Dhaka highway for 15 minutes. The people from all walks of life took part in the programme. Local leaders alleged that the work on the pipeline to supply gas in Rajshahi district was being implemented through Natore district, but Natore is excluded from the project. The leaders of the Gas Andolan Committee urged the authorities to include Natore in the gas supply project.



Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to visit the Asian University for Women. Rokia A Rahman, chairman of the AUW Bangladesh Board, greeted Cherie Blair, also a patron of the university, at the airport.

Career Opportunity in Hope for the Poorest (HP) (A Sister Concern of ASA)

"Hope for the Poorest (HP)" a sister concern of ASA was established in 2004 & committed to serve & assist most vulnerable climate change affected victims surrounding coastal belt. HP is currently looking for the post of "Executive Director (ED)" at the central office. **Conditions and procedures to apply:** The applicant must have post-graduation degree in Management/ Public Administration/ Social Welfare/ Social Science from any recognized university. The applicant must also have at least 5 years working experience holding upper level management post in a well known NGO. **Age limit:** 35-45 years up to 1st January 2010. The applicant must be a non-smoker, smart and should have good written and verbal communication skill in English & Bengali. Interested candidates can send their applications (addressing to the Chairman, HP) along with a full CV, two recent passport size photographs, a return envelope (with stamp of TK. 3) with mailing address of the applicant within 20 January 2010 to the following address. No need to send photostat copies of certificates, testimonials and other documents with the application but the original copies should be shown at the time of interview. **Salary:** TK. 25,000/= per month (consolidated) for one year provision period. Higher salary may be considered for suitable candidate. After successful completion of the probationary period the job will be under regular salary structure of HP. The working place of the position is in Dhaka Central Office but 10-15 days field visits per month is required. **Hope for the Poorest (HP)** (Facing the challenges of climate change)

HP - ASA Tower, 23/3 Khilji Road, Shyamoli, Dhaka -1207
 Tel: 8155083, 8119828, Fax: 880-2-9121861, E-mail: asabd@asa.org.bd



Former chief adviser to a caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman inaugurates the birth centenary programme of Binod Bihari Chowdhury, second from right, by releasing balloons at Shaheed Minar in Chittagong yesterday. (Story on page 2)

Vacancy Announcement

RELIEF INTERNATIONAL
 Relief International (RI), an international development agency with cross-sectoral programs in 22 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, seeks an **International Finance Officer (IFO)** for a new Regional Finance Hub in Dhaka. Under the supervision of the US HQ based Chief Finance Officer, the IFO is responsible for the management, oversight, training and professional growth of RI's overseas-country Finance staff at its Program offices in the Central, South and South-East Asia Region. For instructions to apply, please visit <http://www.connect-bangladesh.org/content/view/426/266/> or www.bdjobs.com/. Applications must be received by 25 January 2010, 17.30 hrs. Women candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

উদ্ভাসিত আগামীতে আপনার আস্থা

আপনাদের সকলকে জানাই সাদর আমন্ত্রণ

রিহাব ফেয়ার' ২০০৯

ষ্টল : ১৬৫

তারিখ : ০৫-০৯ জানুয়ারী, ২০১০
 স্থান : টেনিস কোর্ট-১, ঢাকা শেরাটন হোটেল

বিল্ডিং ফর ফিউচার লিঃ

স্থান কার্যালয় : গণ শিবি, ৭৬ ও ৭৬/১, পাছপা, ঢাকা-১২১৫
 ফোন : ৮১৫৯১৬৭, ০১৯১৪৪৮৬৬৬৬, ৮৯১৮৮৮, ০১৯১৪৪৮৬৬৬৬
 ফ্যাক্স : ৯১০৭৪৫৩, ই-মেইল : sales@buildingforfutureltd.com

www.buildingforfutureltd.com

ফ্ল্যাট-এর চাবি রেডি

রিহাব মেলায় আসুন

- তারিখ: ৫-৯ জানুয়ারী, ২০১০
- সময়: সকাল ১০টা-রাত ৮টা
- ভেন্যু: ঢাকা শেরাটন হোটেল (উইন্টার গার্ডেন)
- ষ্টল নং: ৫৮ ও ৫৯

ভাড়ার টাকায় নিজের ফ্ল্যাট

মতিঝিল থেকে ১০ মিনিটের দূরত্বে, ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ লিংক রোড সংলগ্ন উইংগেডে অল্পসংখ্যক **রেডি ফ্ল্যাট** ও সেকান নিয়ে আপনার অপেক্ষায় রূপায়ণ টাউন

RUPAYAN TOWN

a planned satellite city

মাত্র ৪ লক্ষ ১৪ হাজার টাকা ডাউন পেমেট দিয়ে চাবি নিয়ে উঠে পড়ুন নিজের ফ্ল্যাটে থাকিছু ২০ বছরের কিস্তিতে

কার্পোর্টেট অফিস:
 রূপায়ণ সেন্টার (৪র্থ, ৫ম, ৬ম, ৮ম, ১০ম, ১৪তম, ১৫তম, ১৪তম তলা), ৭২ মহালালি বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২
 ফোন: ৮৮২২২২২, ৯৬২২২২২, ৮৮২২২২২, ৮৮২২২২২
 মেইল: ০১৯৮ ০১৯৮৬, ০১৯৮ ০১৯৮৭, ০১৯৮ ০১৯৮৮, ০১৯৮ ০১৯৮৯, ০১৯৮ ০১৯৯০
 ০১৯৮ ০১৯৯১, ০১৯৮ ০১৯৯২, ০১৯৮ ০১৯৯৩
 E-mail: rupayan@onenetbd.com, Web: www.rupayangroup.com

চতুর্থ অফিস:
 আবদুলক্বাদির সেন্টার (৭ম তলা)
 ২১-২২, আমানুল বা/এ, চট্টগ্রাম
 ফোন: ০৩১ ২৫১৩৯০, ২৫১৩৯১, ২৫১৩৯২
 ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০ ৩১ ২৫১৩৯৩

সিলেট অফিস:
 রোড বিট কমপ্লেক্স (৫): পি:
 পি-২, রূপ-বি
 শাহাদাতুল ইসলাম
 সিলেট-৩১০০

কুমিল্লা অফিস:
 খান মামুন (৪ম তলা)
 বাগান, কুমিল্লা
 ফোন: ০৪২৩ ৮২৮০১৮
 ফ্যাক্স: ০১৯৯ ২২৩০১৪

নিউইকর অফিস:
 খান মামুন (৫ম তলা)
 স্ট্রীট নং- ১০৫, এলসিআ
 এনগেই- ১১১০১, ইকসপ্ল
 মোবাইল: ৯১-৩৪৭-৬০০-৪৭৫০