



Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna unveils the plaque of a renovated section of the theatre and music departments of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Two countries' youth friendship to be strengthened

Says Krishna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is committed to strengthen the bond of friendship between the youths of India and Bangladesh, visiting Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna said yesterday.

Youths should be encouraged to achieve skill and nurture creativity, Krishna told a programme after unveiling the plaque of a renovated section of the theatre and music departments of Dhaka University

(DU) at Kalabhaban. The Indian government funded the renovation.

He suggested introducing a student exchange programme between DU and universities in India.

The minister lauded DU for producing very prominent leaders, of whom many sacrificed their lives in the 1971 Liberation War.

Krishna mentioned the two neighbours have a common history, heritage and culture and his country is pledged to boost the friendship with

Bangladesh building on the cultural values.

Vice-chancellor of DU AAMS Arefin Siddique emphasised strong ties among the students of two nations to enable them to contribute to the civilisation.

DU Treasurer Mizanur Rahman, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Rajet Mitter, deans and teachers of different faculties and departments were present, among others.

Border haats open this month

Says commerce minister

UNB, Dhaka

The planned border haats, common marketplaces for both Bangladeshis and Indians, are likely to open officially this month to boost local business and trade between the two neighbours, the commerce minister said yesterday.

"Things have now been finally settled. Border haats will be formally opened within this month", Faruk Khan told the news agency over phone.

The minister said he would formally open the haats along with Indian Commerce and Industries Minister Anand Sharma. Faruk Khan, however, did not specify the date.

The border haats plan remained unimplemented although over 18 months have passed since the two countries agreed on their introduction.

Several deadlines mentioned by the government for opening the haats

have already expired, with the last such deadline being March 2011. Bureaucratic tangles in both the countries have been blamed for the long delay in opening the border haats.

Initially, the border haats will be opened in Sonarhat-Lyngkhat (Sylhet-East Khasi Hills border), Balamari-Kalaichar (Kurigram-West Garo Hills border), and Narayantala-Balat (Sunamganj-East Khasi Hills border).

Both countries have plan to open up at least 10 more haats in the future to revive the historic trade ties between Bangladesh and India, according to the ministry sources.

The two countries agreed to set up the border haats along their international boundary in the northeast when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited India in January last year.

Border haat launching was first scheduled for April 14 last year, coinciding with Pehela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year. The items produced within 10 kilometres of an

area bordering the two countries will be traded in these haats.

Other commodities include locally produced agriculture and horticulture products, spices, minor forest products excluding timber, fresh and dry fish, dairy and poultry products, wooden furniture and cane products, handloom and handicraft items apart from materials useful for farmers.

Till 1971, border residents from then East Pakistan used to cross over to the Indian side for exchange of goods. But the border haats were closed after creation of Bangladesh.

Opening of border haats found mention in the joint communiqué issued by India and Bangladesh at the end of Hasina's visit in January last year.

Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India will ensure security in the border haats.



State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Yeafesh Osman and IT expert Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed pose for photograph with awardees of ICT enabled initiatives at the four-day Digital Innovation Fair 2011 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Novo Theatre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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AL DEFEAT IN RAJSHAHI UP POLLS

Party lawmakers blamed

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Failure of ruling Awami League (AL) backed candidates to gain majority in the just concluded Union Parishad (UP) elections in Rajshahi was mainly due to ignorance of AL lawmakers to consider grassroots opinion in selecting the candidates, said party insiders.

Some AL leaders alleged it was only money, handed to the lawmakers, that was considered in giving the nominations.

Though the elections were not between the political parties, the majority of the chairman candidates were selected by the parties.

Out of 62 UP chairman posts, pro-BNP candidates bagged the highest 40 seats while AL won 18 seats, Jamaat-e-Islami got three and an individual candidate won the last.

The district unit AL President Tajul Islam M Faruk described the failure as "normal

and expected", though AL won all six parliamentary seats two and a half years back in Rajshahi, known as the safe vote bank of BNP for long.

"Party lawmakers and their men nominated most of the candidates according to their whim, not following the political system of hearing from the grassroots," he said, adding that there were some allegations of handing out bribes for nominations.

The district BNP President Nadim Mostafa said BNP would have won 20 percent more seats if AL had not occupied the vote centres, created obstacles and threatened voters in some unions.

Corruption in relief distribution and "work for money projects" by AL also contributed to their failure, he said, adding, "It is a silent signal for the ruling party and it shows the government's position among the rural people."

Local AL leaders alleged it was only money, handed to the lawmakers, that was considered in giving the nominations

Ruet teachers' assoc polls on July 12

RU CORRESPONDENT

Election of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) Teachers' Association will be held on July 12.

Sources said pro-Awami League blue panel and Progressive Teachers Society white panel would compete the election.

Blue panel candidates for the posts of president and general secretary are Prof Dr Nirendranath Mustafi and Prof Dr NHM Kamruzzaman Sarker Hiro.

White panel candidates for the posts of president and general secretary are Prof Tarifuddin Ahmed and Dr SM Abdur Rajjak.

The election will be held at the Mechanical Engineering department lab of the university from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

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Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) Char Development and Settlement Project -IV (CDSP-IV) Social and livelihoods support/ NGO component

The Char Development and Settlement Project- Phase IV (CDSP-IV), a multi-sector rural development project with funds from IFAD, Government of Bangladesh and Government of the Netherlands, is being implemented in five chars (Nangulia, Noler, Ziauddin, Caring and Urir char) in the Southern part of Noakhali district with an estimated 30,000 households. The present phase of the project has been designed taking account of the experience of earlier phases of CDSP. Aside from multiple GOB agencies (BWDB, LGED, DPHE, DAE, Ministry of Land, Forest Department) implementing different components, the project has a social and livelihoods component to be implemented by one or more experienced non-government organizations. The overall social and livelihoods component has the following sub-components:

- Group Formation, Micro-finance and Capacity Building
- Health and Family Planning
- Water and Sanitation
- Homestead Agriculture and Value Chain Development
- Legal and Human Rights
- Disaster Management and Climate Change

The project Technical Assistance Team (TA Team) is in the process of selecting an experienced NGO or NGOs to implement the social and livelihoods component. The selection will be completed in two stages: i) preliminary selection (pre-selection) of NGOs after receiving expression of interest; and ii) final selection after evaluating technical proposals from the pre-selected NGOs. Note that the contract with NGOs will be a fixed budget contract with specific objectives for each sub-component. NGO's may form consortia and apply for one, more or all chars/ packages/ branches.

The overall Terms of Reference and relevant documents are available from the CDSP-IV office at Noakhali either by visiting during office hours or sending an email: cdsp.iii@gmail.com. Interested NGOs with required experience of working in southern coastal areas with coastal/char communities and multi-sector projects are invited to submit expression of interest with necessary information in specified formats. The procuring entity reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all EOIs and tenders. The last date of submission of EOI is 31 July 2011

Md Sadequul Islam [Deputy Team Leader (NGO and Livelihoods)]
CDSP IV
Address : BWDB Compound, Sonapur, Noakhali.
Email : cdsp.iii@gmail.com
Contact phones: 0321-61428, Fax: 0321-63524



Contest

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives and the UNDP will jointly organise a launching of journalistic and photographic contest. Venue: Shimanta Square, Dhanmondi, Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board will arrange a workshop. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Department of Law of State University of Bangladesh will arrange a seminar. Venue: 77, Satmashjid Road, Dhanmondi, Time: 3:00pm.

Symposium

United Nations Association of Bangladesh will hold a symposium. Venue: Bilia auditorium, Dhanmondi, Time: 5:00pm.

Protest rally

Everest Holdings and Technologists Flat Malik Samity will organise a protest rally. Venue: Muktagan, Time: 11:00am.

Career fair

JobsA1.com will arrange a career fair. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 10:30am.

Kite exhibition

Dhakabashi will organise a kite exhibition. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Business Asia will hold a discussion. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 7:00pm.



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