



DEVELOPMENT WHEEL (DEW)

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## Press Release on “Rural Livelihood Fair-2011” March 01, 2011

**Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Agricultural Affairs has committed to raise the issue of ensuring soil testing cost with not more than 25 Tk from 47 Tk at next Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting**

Development Wheel (DEW), as part of the *Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) of Char Group*, has organized a three days long fair entitled as “**Rural Livelihood Fair-2011**” at Baruamari High School premise under Gouripur upazilla of Mymensing district from 27 February, 2011 to 1 March, 2011. The fair is organized with a view to create mass awareness on the very concerned issue of “**Total Agriculture Reform**” and also to encourage mass people in practicing climate change adaptation strategies.

Among various activities, on 27 February, 2011 at around 11.00am, the very first day of the fair has been opened with a colorful rally at the local area involving local level students-teachers-farmers-leaders as well as people of all layers along with their spontaneous participation with the coordination of the organizing authority. Then after, the honorable Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University **Dr. M.A. Sattar Mandal**, as the chief guest, has announced the grand inauguration of this lively fair with delight at around 3.00pm. At that time, the Executive Director of the host organization Mr. Shah Abdus Salam along with many other distinguished officials of different levels related to agriculture have been present in that opening ceremony. Even, various products produced by the local farmers and different agricultural tools are displayed along with the provision of testing soils and related information on agriculture have also been provided at the fair. Lastly, the activity of that day has been concluded with a cultural performance by Udichi-Mymensing following a related documentary show on agriculture.

Moreover, the very basic motto of organizing the fair is actually to create mass consensus on assuring market access with fair price of the produced products by the farmers of the char areas and also to inspire those farmers to exercise adaptation strategies with climate change impact issues in practice.

In connection to this, on 28 February, 2011 at around 11.00pm, the activity of the second day of the livelihood fair is started with the event of an essay writing competition by employing the students of the local high school focusing on “Problems and Possibilities of the Agriculture of Bangladesh in a context of Climate Change” as the subject matter. Again, a discussion session is organized for the local farmers with the host organization dealing with various problems that the local farmers are facing in agriculture due to the impact of climate change giving prominence on the importance of practicing adaptation strategies on climate change issues. The day long activity has come to an end with a related cultural performance by the nominated cultural group of Oxfam-GB.

Further more, **Mr. Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP**, the honorable Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Agricultural Affairs, has attended at the grand finale of the entitled livelihood fair and the prize giving ceremony on March 1, 2011 at around 10.00am. There, he has joined at the hearing session of the local farmers where they have focused on various problems that they are facing in farming especially at char areas in a context to the impact of climate change issues for serious concern. As an out-come of the session, the major problems have been identified with inadequate supply of electricity, lack of proper road ways for easier communication and transportation, absence of a convenient market place at the local level, unavailable supply of quality seed variety, lack of a cold



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storage at near-by areas for storing produced vegetables and lack of proper land management policy by the farmers with an urge for ensuring fair price of their products and soil testing facility with lower cost in a manner of demand. In accordance to their proposition, Mr. Shahjahan MP has responded to their urge considering their problems with much attention giving a hope of necessary remedial in further. Even, he has promised to raise the issue of ensuring soil testing cost with not more than 25 TK at the Parliamentary Standing Committee within the short. Then after, he has distributed prizes among the winners of various events. Finally, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, the Executive Director of the host organization Development Wheel (DEW), has concluded the occasion of the **“Rural Livelihood Fair-2011”** giving his heart-felt thanks to every one for their spontaneous participation and co-operation in making the entire event successful. It is to be noted that the fair is funded with the support of Oxfam-GB.

*Shah Abdus Salam*

**Shah Abdus Salam**

Founder, Executive Director  
Development Wheel (DEW)



Chief Guest Mr. Swakat Momen Shahjahan M.P, Executive Director of DEW Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Upazila Chairman, AD and DD of Agriculture, CSO-SRDI, UNO others in the dais



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Farmers hearing to the Chair of Parliamentary Standing Committee



Folk Cultural programme



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Cultural Programme



Farmer participants