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Suicide, violent clashes mark Cancun meet

AGENCIES, Cancun

The first day of the WTO ministerial meet here was marred Wednesday by the suicide of a South Korean protester and violent clashes at demonstrations against the five-day gathering called to spur momentum toward a new global trade accord.

Lee Kyang Hae, 55, who headed South Korea's Federation of Farmers and Fishermen, stabbed himself in protest against the WTO, "which destroys Korea's economy and its agriculture," a fellow farmer said.

Lee climbed onto a high security fence during a violent protest and waved a banner that read "WTO Kills Farmers." He then stabbed himself in the chest and later died in hospital.

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Dhaka for bigger bite of global trade pie

LDCs get down to hard bargain to bring about new world order

STAR DESK

Hammering on increased share of global trade for the least developed countries (LDCs), Commerce Minister Amir Khorru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday demanded duty- and quota-free market access to markets of developed countries at the Cancun ministerial meet in Mexico.

Also, opposing attempts to revive issues of Singapore round, he sought free movement of skilled and semi-skilled

labour from the developing countries.

Placing the demands, Khorru said steps should be taken to increase share of LDCs' trade.

A despatch from the Prothom Alo reporter Saugat Ali Sagor says the minister demanded flexible rules of origin that match the industrial capacity of the LDCs and make duty- and quota-free market access meaningful.

The minister also demanded compensation against possible loss, which the

LDCs will sustain as a result of tariff cuts. He said the LDCs' present share of world trade is marginal, around 0.5 per cent of the volume.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the market share of the LDCs in global trade declined from 2 per cent in 1960 to 1 per cent in 1970. The share further declined from 0.8 per cent in 1980 to 0.4 per cent in 2001.

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Anti-globalisation protesters brandish sticks in front of the riot police line yesterday in Cancun, Mexico, trying to force their way through a barricade blocking the route to the World Trade Organisation ministerial meetings.

PHOTO: AFP



3 bills tabled in Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three bills were introduced to the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday when it sat in the lackluster ninth session boycotted by the main opposition Awami League (AL).

Of the bills, the President's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill seeks to abolish the post of vice-president and the Chittagong Hill-Tracts Regulation (Amendment) Bill to set up three district and sessions judge's courts in as many hill districts.

The Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council (Amendment) Bill plans to amend the relevant law.

The bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committee concerned for scrutiny.

Local Government, Rural

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JS body pats cops on the back

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday expressed satisfaction at the police performance, although press reports say more than 10 people were killed on average every day last month, which is more than the previous month's figure.

Incidents of abduction, political killing, acid attack on women and toll collection are also on the rise, according to media reports.

Moreover, the government itself admitted that police failure to curb crimes had prompted it to launch the army-led "Operation

Clean Heart" across the country and BDR-led "Operation Spider Web" in the south-west and form Rapid Action Battalion.

"Performance of the police administration is good and we are satisfied with them," Abdul Mannan, the chairman of the committee and a BNP lawmaker, told The Daily Star yesterday after yesterday's meeting.

"There is no failure on the part of the police administration; they are doing well every day," he told newsmen emerging from the meeting held at the cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He also said they discussed the

Pay toll or face kidnap, killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unnamed caller on Wednesday demanded Tk 10 lakh in toll from the family of Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid and threatened his wife with the killing of their children in captivity in failure to pay the money by Thursday.

"I feel insecure... I'm worried about my children," Shahid's wife Umme Qulsum, who received several nighttime phone calls, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Her daughter, a college

Indian river-link plan to put country in peril

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once implemented, India's inter-basin water transfer project will be detrimental to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment and biodiversity of Bangladesh, the speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion was organised by Council for National Agenda at the Centre for Integrated Rural Development of Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP), with Justice Mohammed Abdur Rouf in the chair.

"With manifold adverse impacts on the economy and environment, India's river interlinking project to network 54 trans-border rivers poses a serious threat to Bangladesh," said Bangladesh Water Development

JCD deals hall seats out at Eden College

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Leaders of the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal's (JCD) Eden College unit are illegally dealing dormitory seats out to freshers for money.

Some JCD leaders of the college unit admitted that a number of their leaders have been involved in illegal allocation of seats in exchange for money.

Sources in the JCD said that a Chhatra Dal leader of Zebunnesa

Hall, one of Hasna Begum Hall, one of Khodeza Khatun Hall and two of Razia Hall of the college are taking Tk 2,000 to 6,000 against a seat at the dormitories.

About 150 first-year students have been given such 'allotments' by the JCD leaders of the college, the largest women's college in the country.

Hall authorities do not dare to intervene, fearing repercussion from high-ups, one of the students

told The Daily Star, adding that she paid Tk 6,000 for her seat in the Hasna Begum Hall (New Hall).

Denying taking any money against 'allotment' of seats, two JCD leaders said they arranged seats for the first year students after some of their leaders asked them to.

These JCD leaders sometimes force genuine students to vacate their seats and then replace them with illegal allottees in exchange for

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Tk 400cr more farm subsidy sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The agriculture ministry will seek an additional Tk 400 crore from the government to increase farm subsidies to Tk 700 crore, according to a decision at a high-level meeting yesterday.

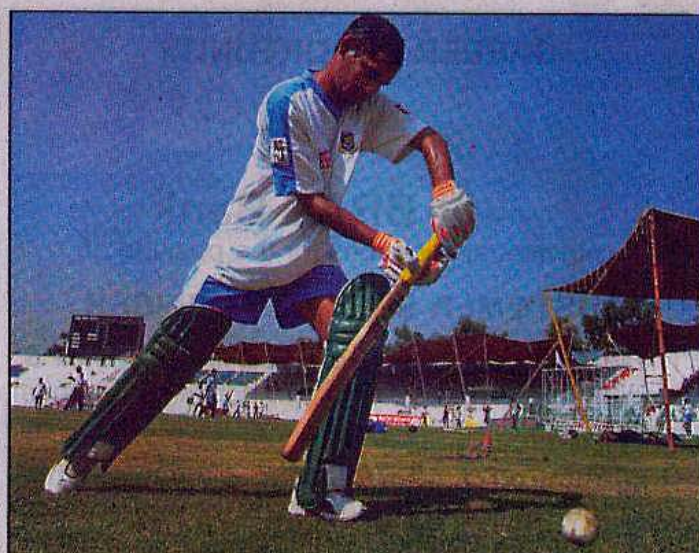
The funds will be needed to subsidise diesel used to run irrigation pumps and soil-testing facilities in upazilas and to provide farmers with quality seeds at lower than market price.

Yesterday's decision came after last month's government plan to scale up the level of farm subsidies, one of the lowest in the world.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, presiding over the meeting, said the government wants to provide subsidies from which farmers will directly benefit.

Both the prime minister and the finance minister are willing to make the money available for the subsidies, he earlier indicated.

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GOT TO PUT THE HEAD DOWN: Bangladesh's premier batsman Habibur Bashar plays a front-foot defence during practice at Faisalabad yesterday.

Target is to get back on track

Mahmud's men pit against Pakistan at Faisalabad today

HASAN MASOOD from Faisalabad

Bangladesh will be eager to showcase their fighting reputation they earned in the Test series when they take on hosts Pakistan in the second one-day international at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad today.

The last day match in the five-match ODI series kicks off at 10:30 am (BST) with both Bangladesh Television and satellite

Bid opens for local end of marine cable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State-owned Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) yesterday opened bids for the local end of the multi-country undersea cable project which will connect Bangladesh with the global information superhighway.

Eight internationally reputed telecoms equipment vendors are contesting to supply the peripheral equipment of the project.

The companies are Lucent and Tyco of the US, NEC, Fujitsu and Mitsubishi of Japan, Nortel Networks of Canada and NSW and Siemens of Germany.

BTB Chairman SATM Badrul Hoque opened the bids at his office in the presence of board members, director of the project and other high officials.

Globally, 12 vendors dropped bids in Rome in response to the international bidding to set up the network.

The evaluation of the US\$ 750

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Visually disabled in gazetted job for the first time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four visually challenged persons were appointed as gazetted officers for the first time in Bangladesh.

Borhanuddin Hawlader of Madaripur, Swapan Chandra Karmakar of Comilla, Belal Hossain of Chandpur and Khalilur Rahman of Narsingdi are among the seven resource teachers appointed under the Social Welfare Department.

Bangladesh Public Service Commission appointed the seven out of 553 candidates after interviews.

When the four called on Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed at his office yesterday, the minister said the

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The Daily Star

Award Presentation Ceremony 2003

Announcement for "O" and "A" Level Private Candidates and Schools

The Daily Star will organise its 5th award giving ceremony on October 17, 2003 for students who achieved outstanding results in 'O' and 'A' Level examinations in the academic session June 2002 to June 2003.

We are inviting the private candidates, who sat for the examinations to register their names at The Daily Star office. The criteria to be fulfilled for registration are as follows:

1. For 'O' Level:
Minimum Six A's in two consecutive sittings (June 2002 to June 2003).

2. For 'A' Level:
Minimum 3 A's within 1 academic year (June 2002 to June 2003).

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Ms. Tania Mahub at The Daily Star office with their original individual candidate statement of results (along with a photocopy) on September 14 and 15 (between 10:00 am - 4:00 pm).

Schools that have not yet submitted their list of awardees to The Daily Star office are requested to contact Ms. Tania Mahub with photocopy of their result sheet on the above mentioned time & dates.

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Vice Chancellor (Designate)
Former Vice Chancellor, National University

For further information please contact:
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