



Engineers and employees of the Roads and Highways Department march in a procession in the city yesterday to press for their three-point demand including withdrawal of the decision to hand over 9,000 km roads to LGED.

Bilateral trade talks with neighbours from Oct

M K Anwar stresses on policy framework on agriculture to cope with higher subsidy in developed world

BSS, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister M K Anwar yesterday underlined the need for adopting a policy framework for the agriculture sector to cope with the higher subsidy in this field in the developed world. "We need to further develop our agriculture sector to ensure food security, alleviation of poverty and growth of agro-based industries," he said while he was speaking at a seminar on "Bangladesh in a globalised world: Choices and future challenges" here.

increase bilateral trade. "Not only the multilateral trade, but regional and bilateral trading arrangements are becoming order of the day," he added.

Bangladesh is going to start talks with the neighbouring countries on bilateral trading arrangements next month, he told the seminar.

Organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its

auditorium, the seminar was also addressed by Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury and BIDS Research Director M Asaduzzaman. Director General of BIDS Quazi Shahabuddin was in the chair.

Ashok Gulati, Division Director of Markets, Trade and Institutions of IFPRI, also spoke on the occasion. The researchers of BIDS submitted three separate papers in the seminar.

M K Anwar said Bangladesh should devise its own policy to score progress in the agriculture sector as the recently concluded WTO ministerial meeting raised various questions regarding the future of world trade and development possibilities through globalisation in parts of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Referring to subsidy in the agriculture sector, he said his ministry had asked the government to raise subsidy in agriculture sector to Tk 700 crore from the existing Tk 300 crore as the sector is playing an important role for the overall economic development.

"According to WTO rules, Bangladesh can provide at least 10 per cent of product specific subsidy amounting to about Tk 19,000 crore for the agriculture sector at present day prices," he said.

M K Anwar said the agriculture sector was always kept outside the purview of the GATT negotiations until the Uruguay roundtable, which had a very long drawn out process of eight years mainly due to disagreement over the agriculture sector.

"This was so because agriculture in all developed countries have been heavily protected either behind tariff walls or through heavy subsidy both in the input and the output markets," he said.

He said all the signatories to the GATT negotiations had agreed to cut down not only tariffs but also the agricultural subsidies according to rule based formula.

"When there has been some progress in implementing the policy, subsidies gradually surfaced bypassing the rules. In the developed world in general, some trade distorting support has been re-categorised," he added.

The agriculture minister put special emphasis on increased trade and commerce between the developed and the developing countries side by side with special considerations for the LDCs to remove disparity between them.

"In today's world, trade and commerce have become the integral part of development and it is well recognised that fair and free trade could generate benefits for the trading partners," he said.

Lili Photo Beauty Contest in Ctg today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The final round of the first Lili Photo Beauty Contest will be held at the auditorium of Institute of Engineers in the port city today.

Organised by the Multi-vision Production, the contest will begin at 7.00pm.

Six hundred competitors were in the race and the jury board has selected 10 finalists for the final showdown, the organisers said at a press conference yesterday.

A cultural function, a fashion show and a dance programme have also been arranged.

Sajjad Bin Khaled, managing director of Multi-vision Production, read out a written statement at the press conference. Rupam Chakrabarty, Shimul Khaled, Amjad Bappi and Sohel Azad were also present.

Extortionists shoot staff, loot electronics showroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot an official of an electronics showroom and looted about Tk 40,000 at Noorjahan Road in Mohammadpur Saturday.

A gang of extortionists including Pappu, Jasim, Alamgir and Hanif intruded into LG Butterfly Marketing Limited's showroom at about 4:00pm. They shot Ruhul Amin, credit officer of the showroom, in leg as he tried to resist them, a complaint filed with Mohammadpur Police Station said.

Breaking the showroom cash, miscreants took away the money. Earlier, the gang demanded 'toll' from the showroom, the complaint added.

Amin was first taken to Orthopaedic hospital and shifted to a Mohammadpur clinic later.

Meanwhile, police arrested Babul and Iqbal suspecting their involvement in the incident.

DCC-London friendship accord signed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has signed a friendship agreement with London to strengthen the existing bilateral relations in the fields of education, information technology and trade.

The agreement was signed during the visit of Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka to London, DCC sources said.

The mayor who went to London on September 9 on an official visit returned home yesterday.

The mayor of Dhaka and the mayor of London signed the agreement to strengthen cooperation between the two cities.

Ties with Spain to be expanded, hopes president

UNB, Dhaka

The newly appointed Ambassador of Spain, Rafael Conde De Saro, presented the credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming him, President Iajuddin expressed his satisfaction at the diplomatic relation between Bangladesh and Spain and hoped that the relation between the two countries would be expanded in various sectors in the days to come.

Pointing to the development of economy and trade relations with Spain in last few years, he said there are ample scope of trade of Bangladeshi products like jute, jute products, tea, leather and leather-products in European market.

The president said Bangladesh is working together with Spain and European Union on different international issues.

Iajuddin stressed on increasing the exchange programmes at teacher and student levels between the universities of the two countries.

The ambassador hoped that the cooperation between the two countries would be increased further during discharging his duty.

Knowing that Queen Sofia who visited Bangladesh twice is likely to visit Bangladesh again next year to



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attend the micro-credit conference as co-chairman. Iajuddin thanked the envoy for the Queen's special interest in Bangladesh. Secretary to the President Anisul

Haq Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Abdul Matin were present on the occasion.

Int'l Day of Peace observed

BSS, Dhaka

The International Day of Peace was observed in Bangladesh yesterday as elsewhere in the world.

Different organisations observed the day through holding various programmes including seminar, symposium and discussion on peace and democracy.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a message on the occasion called for rededicating all good efforts towards ensuring establishment of human rights at all spheres of social life.

"Let us take this opportunity to pay tributes to the memory of all those who have given their valuable lives for the cause of peace and justice," she added.

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organised a symposium at a city hotel yesterday with UNAB Vice President Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad in the chair. Prof Dr Akmal Hossain of the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, was the keynote speaker.

The 'Second Gan-Sohagi International Day of Peace Lecture' was held here at the Business Studies Faculty, Dhaka University under the auspices of the Gan-Sohagi Memorial Trust Fund.

Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Prof Rehman Sobhan delivered a lecture on "Globalisation and the Challenge to Democracy" on the occasion. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor SMA Faiz attended the function as the chief guest while the UNESCO Representative in Dhaka Wolfgang Vollmann was the special guest.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Yusuf Haider presided over the function. Kazi Ali Reza, Officer in Charge of UNIC, read out the message of the UN Secretary General.

Prof Rehman Sobhan described globalisation as an inexorable process

and said it would remain under perpetual challenge unless the pervasive concerns of the deprived, spread across the world, were recognised. He, however, called for initiation of structural changes to make them direct stakeholders in the benefit of globalisation.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message said the International Day of Peace has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as "a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and peoples to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the day."

Death anniversary

Today is the second death anniversary of renowned director and actor SM Solaiman, says a press release.

He was also the founder of the Theatre Art Unit.

The Theatre Art Unit has organised various programmes at the Mahila Samity to mark the day.

The programmes include exhibition of photographs on his life and works at 5.00pm and a drama titled 'Golapjan' at 7.00pm.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Chairman Mamunur Rashid will inaugurate the programmes.

Rudaba Aadnina Tuni

The sixth death anniversary of Rudaba Aadnina Tuni, daughter of Advocate Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, will be observed today, says a

press release.

She was a member of Gandaria Kisholaya Kachi-Kancor Mela and student of Wiles Little Flower School.

A doa mahfil will be held at her father's residence at 20/A Purana Paltan Line after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

DHAKA TODAY

Ceramic exhibition

The first solo ceramic exhibition of Mostafizur Rahman Mridul will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open from 11.00am to 8.00pm daily till September 28.

Azad Centre, 55 Purana Paltan. Time: 7.30pm.

Drama

Shishukantha, an organisation of working children under Ain O Salish Kendra, will stage a drama based on 'Raja O Rajdroh' by Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Greenforce rally

The Greenforce will hold a rally demanding enough playgrounds for all, including children and youths. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 11.00am.

Musical evening

Surma Sangskritik Kendra organises a musical evening. Venue: Nat Mandal, Dhaka University. Time: 6.45pm.

IFRTD meeting

The second Asia regional meeting of the International Forum for Rural Transport and development (IFRTD) will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 9.30am.

Discussion on student politics

The Centre for Idea Innovation will hold a discussion on student politics. Venue: Business Faculty auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of Grand Azad Hotel Award 'Ratnagarva Ma' will be held, with State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon as chief guest. Venue: ZR Auditorium,

Lawyers' protest rally

The Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad will hold a protest rally demanding repeal of the amendments to Civil Procedure Code and Bar Council Act. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban.



BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a public meeting at Shyampur in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.4 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	25.0	98	73
Chittagong	32.0	25.7	73	71
Rajshahi	34.4	26.8	87	84
Khulna	33.0	26.7	84	98
Barisal	31.8	26.5	78	95
Sylhet	33.8	25.0	83	77
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.7	82	85