

McKinnon for globalisation of democracy

BSS, Dhaka

Commonwealth Secretary General Donald C McKinnon yesterday called for continuing efforts to globalise democracy, saying democratic values, good governance and the rule of law offered the best environment for development.

He was addressing a seminar on "The Commonwealth in the 21st Century" at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) as the chief guest.

The seminar was also addressed by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan as special guest.

McKinnon said the Commonwealth was making efforts to chart a path to the future -- to strengthen democracy, tackle poverty and underdevelopment and build a world of tolerance, stability and prosperity for all the peoples.

He said the international body has already demonstrated its capacity for conflict resolution and peace building, and its ability to build bridges across racial, political and economic divides.

Referring to Commonwealth activities in member countries, including Lesotho, Tonga, Cameroon, Solomon Islands and Guyana, he said the body was also engaged with the government of Pakistan to help secure free and fair elections and the restoration of democracy there.

In Bangladesh, he said, the Commonwealth projects over the last five years focused on the promotion of exports, the diversification of the jute industry and the training of nationals in priority areas of need.



The Bangladesh Entomological Society held a roundtable on 'Dengue Vector Control' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Referring to globalisation, he said in the Commonwealth, there were many who do not benefit from its opportunities.

He said, "Rich countries must start practising what they preach. They must open their markets to developing countries' exports."

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan expressed the hope of working together with a vision and renewed commitment to realise the full potentials of the Commonwealth.

McKinnon meets Morshed Khan

BSS, Dhaka

The Commonwealth Secretary General Donald C McKinnon called on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning.

They had wide ranging discussions on cooperation between the Commonwealth and Bangladesh in promoting democracy, accelerating development in the Commonwealth countries, bridging the digital gap between developed and developing member countries and human resources development.

The foreign minister and the secretary general also had elaborate discussions on the implementations of the Coolum Declaration issued at the end of the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

The foreign minister discussed issues of the CMAG with the Commonwealth secretary general.

Both of them agreed that the CMAG has an important role in promoting and consolidating democracy across the Commonwealth.

The secretary general and the foreign minister also discussed increasing Commonwealth technical assistance to Bangladesh.

No retirement, retrenchment at this moment: BB

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank at this moment has no plan for putting its excess manpower on compulsory retirement or any sort of retrenchment.

The central bank yesterday issued this clarification in a press release following a meeting with the visiting six-member World Bank delegation.

The World Bank delegation shared views with the central bank governor and senior bank officials on necessary reforms and restructuring of the bank.

Issues relating to neither retrenchment nor retirement of the bank's manpower came up for discussion, the central bank said in the release adding that in fact, the mission was not working on the subject.

They held discussion on measures about how to strengthen the role of the bank and infuse dynamism in desired activities of the bank, the press release added.

12 vessels fined for polluting Ctg port channel

BSS, Ctg

Twelve vessels including two foreign ones and two public establishments were fined Tk 1.91 lakh by a mobile court of Chittagong port yesterday for polluting the port channel and adjoining areas with black smoke.

A press release of the port said the foreign vessels fined are flag carrier of Panama and St. Vincent.

The local vessels included Mother cargo vessels, Fishing Trawler, Oil Tanker and general cargo carrier.

The court also fined Meghna Petroleum Company, a sister concern of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), and Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BDFC) owned Chittagong Fish Harbour for polluting environment.



PHOTO STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina visited injured Chhatra League leader Nasir Ahmed at Pangu Hospital in the city yesterday. Nasir was injured in an attack allegedly by BNP men at Mirhajirabagh on August 7.

CPA chairman in favour of private port in Ctg

BSS, Dhaka

While port workers continue to oppose a proposed private port here the chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) says, it will help improve the standard of services.

CPA Chairman Commodore (Retd) Zulfiquer Ali told a journalists' delegation yesterday that the proposed private port would not hamper the activities of the existing port. It will rather contribute to improving the standard of overall services and promoting a healthy competition in the port sector, he said.

His contention was vehemently opposed by Chittagong Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Parishad (CDBSKP), a conglomerate of 22 trade unions active in the port.

Leaders of the Parishad told the 19-member delegation of Chittagong Journalists' Forum, Bangladesh (CJED) that they were opposed to the concept of privatisation in the port sector as they saw no reasonable ground behind it.

UP chairman's team studies panchayet system of West Bengal

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of the Union Parishad (UP) Chairmen returned home yesterday after studying panchayet system in West Bengal, India.

The delegation left here for West Bengal on August 18.

During their visit, they learned about how the panchayet system works in West Bengal and tremendous success achieved in empowering women and economic and social progress, said a press release here.

The Hunger Project-Bangladesh in collaboration with the Institute of Social Science in India organised the visit.

The delegation comprised 12 chairmen including a female one.

Country Director of the Hunger Project-Bangladesh Dr Badul Alam Majumdar led the delegation.

The delegation interacted with a large number of grassroots level elected representatives, government officials and political leaders.

They also called on West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Dr Surjyakanta Mishra and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Probodh Chandra Sinha.

The Chief Minister thanked the delegation for getting interest in Panchayet system, the release added.

MIU orientation ceremony held

Manarat International University (MIU) organised an orientation ceremony on August 24 for the freshers of the Fall Semester, 2002 on its campus at Gulshan in the city, says a press release.

Chaired by Vice Chancellor Ahmed Farid, the function was also addressed by Mohammad Ismail Hossain, Treasurer & Syndicate member of MIU Prof Dr Abbas Ali Khan, Head, Department of Business Administration and Prof Dr Adnan Kibar, Head, Department of Computer Science & Engineering.

Registrar Abul Basher Khan gave address of welcome. Mohammad Al-Emran, Lecturer, Business Administration & Student Counselor introduced the guest and faculty to the audience on behalf of the guardians.

The guardians and incoming students also spoke on the occasion and expressed their confidence in the MIU programmes for study.

The trade union (TU) leaders reiterated their pledge to resist any move to construct the private container terminal proposed by Sevedoring Services of America, Bangladesh Ltd (SSA,B).

The delegation separately met with the CPA officials and the TU leaders at CPA Bhaban.

"I personally believe in the concept of private port. It will definitely yield a healthy competition which will ultimately improve

standard of services in the port sector. It is, in no way, harmful to the interest of the Chittagong port," Zulfiquer Ali said.

Focusing on the development and modernisation projects undertaken by the CPA to cope with the rapid growth of containers and general cargoes, the chairman said five projects involving about Tk 1,200 crore from CPA's own fund have been implemented or underway.

These projects include the construction of New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), procurement of 145-category equipment, construction of 33 KV electric substation and extension of container handling facilities.

The TU leaders who exchanged views with the journalists included CDBSKP joint coordinators Mahfuzur Rahman and Nurullah Bahar.

They termed the agreement between the government and the SSA,B on the construction of a private container terminal at the estuary of the port channel signed during the past Awami League regime as "mysterious, non-transparent and against national interest."

They said there is no need for any private port as Chittagong Port can handle sufficient cargoes if port facilities are developed properly.

SINGER®

2ND INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR 2002 AND BOOK CLOSURE

This is for information that the Board of Directors of Singer Bangladesh Limited in its 118th Board Meeting held on August 26, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. has declared 2nd Interim Dividend for 2002 as follows:

2nd Interim Dividend : 30% (Tk. 30 per Ordinary share of Tk. 100 each)

Book Closure : From 10 to 17 September 2002 (both days inclusive)

By order of the Board

Sd/-
Mohd. Sanaullah
Company Secretary

August 26, 2002
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Dhaka-1000

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He was admitted to Pangu Hospital in a critical condition on that day.

Hasina also visited Mohamad Johnny, a Shechchhasebok League worker, who was beaten and stabbed at Malibagh on

Hasina visits injured party workers

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited some injured workers at Pangu Hospital and a city clinic.

She went to BDM Hospital at Malibagh to see Arifur Rahman Masud, an Awami League leader of Natore, who was critically injured in an attack by the BNP cadres.

Hasina also visited a victim of Malibagh incident, Ashraful. He was fatally injured in a gunfight between local people and police on August 15.

Consoling her party workers at the hospital, she said the ruling BNP kept attacking the opposition workers, leaving innumerable leaders and workers either killed or injured.

"They have made the country inhabitable by unleashing violence and resorting to killings," she said adding that the country cannot be run in such a fashion.

She asked the doctors to take best possible care of the injured workers of her party and consoled the family members of the injured saying that the situation would be changed very soon following a united resistance of the people.

Citizens urged to launch anti-dengue campaign

BSS, Ctg

Speakers at a meeting yesterday called upon the conscious section of the society to come forward to campaign against dengue side by side with the government and non-government organisations to fight the disease.

The motivational meeting on dengue fever was organised by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at its auditorium here yesterday morning.

Proper precaution can save us from dengue attack while a dengue patient can recover from the disease if proper care and treatment are ensured, he said.

Dr Abdur Rashid informed the meeting that so far 17 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the port city till Sunday while no death was reported.

Prof Dr Imran Bin Yunus, an expert on Dengue from World Health Organisation (WHO) presented his research paper on dengue as the principal discussant in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting,

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Dr Nirafat Anam Memorial Library

Department of Special Education, IER

University of Dhaka

In Memoriam

One year back on this day, the August 27, Dr Nirafat Anam, Assistant Professor, IER of the University of Dhaka left us forever. We feel the absence in every moment of this hardworking smiling-face, who dedicated her life for the development of the people with disabilities. However, we do not miss the values and contributions of this stunning personality. In this special day, all of the teachers and students of IER pray for the departed soul of Dr Anam to rest in peace and making promise to carry out her memories.

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