

Enhance trade with northeastern states of India

Speakers tell seminar in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The speakers at a seminar on trade and investment yesterday underscored the need for developing infrastructural, transportation and logistic facilities in the trade points along the border between Bangladesh and the northeastern states of India to enhance bilateral trade, investment and cooperation between the two countries.

They called for easing the high tariff structure, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers that stood in the way of bilateral and economic relations. They suggested formulating a policy in this regard.

The participants also suggested that a Joint Study Group be formed to identify areas of cooperation and problems and to make recommendations.

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and the High Commission of India jointly organised the 2-day seminar on "Promotion of Trade and Investment between Bangladesh and Northeastern States of India" that began at the CCCI auditorium in the port city yesterday.

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury addressed the opening ceremony as chief guest. Acting High Commissioner of India Dilip Sinha, President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yousuf Abdullah Harun, Chief Secretary of Tripura government V Tulasidas, Joint secretary of the ministry of External Affairs of India Neelam Deo and President of Tripura Chamber of Commerce and Industry ML Debnath also spoke. CCCI President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury presided.

The commerce minister said that there was a lot of complementarity between the economies of Bangladesh and the northeast-

ern states of India and promotion of trade and investment between them could contribute to the economic emancipation and progress for both the countries.

But the major obstacles are tariff barriers and inadequate logistic support services, he said and called for removing those barriers to expedite trade and investment between the two sides.

The minister also stressed the need for initiatives to ensure duty-free access of products from one country to another and liberalisation of trade.

Acting High Commissioner of India Dilip Sinha said the northeastern region of India has vast natural resources such as minerals, but the geographical location is hampering trade and investment as well as its development. He called for measures to help the landlocked region emerge as a bridge for trade between the two countries.

Dilip Sinha also suggested developing a road communication through Rangamati for expediting trade between Bangladesh and Mizoram state.

FBCCI President Yousuf Abdullah Harun said that tremendous potential of this region could not be harnessed due to lack of infrastructural and logistic support services. He called upon both the sides to come forward with a 'political will' to exploit the opportunity.

Chief Secretary of Tripura government V Tulasidas called for opening a PSI office at Tripura and introducing rail communications between Akhaura (Brahmanbaria) and Agartala (Tripura). Water transportation can also be introduced on this route, he suggested.

Tripura Chamber President ML Debnath said that Bangladeshi

products have a good prospect in the market in Tripura.

Earlier, CCCL president Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury put forward five recommendations to promote trade and investment between Bangladesh and northeastern region of India.

The recommendations are reduction of staggering trade gap and withdrawal of para-tariff and non-tariff barriers, development of infrastructural and communication facilities, improvement of banking, insurance, C & F, PSI and other support services at NE region of India, logistic support services for trade with Mizoram and increasing facilities and logistic support services of the LC stations at both sides.

BAF Fire Power Demonstration '02 from Oct 21

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) will conduct Fire Power Demonstration-2002 from October 21 to November 3.

During the exercise, BAF fighter aircraft will take part in training exercise with a super sonic speed over Madhupur, Tangail, Mymensingh and their adjoining areas, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

As a result, sonic boom might be heard in those areas. During the sonic boom there may be heavy sound resembling the sound of bomb drop.

There is no reason for the people of those areas to be scared if the sonic boom is heard. Such sound is only a part of BAF exercise, the press release stated.

Bangladesh Air Force has requested kind cooperation of the general people for the smooth conduct of the exercise.



World Bank Vice-president for South Asia Region Miko Nishimizu called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

WB VP lauds govt efforts to boost economy

PM seeks more assistance

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting World Bank Vice-president for South Asia Region Miko Nishimizu has praised the government's efforts and successes in stabilising the country's macro-economy.

The appreciation came when Miko Nishimizu met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday afternoon.

The World Bank executive said the election mandate of the four-party alliance government is reflected in development programmes in education, health and other sectors.

She appreciated the courageous decisions of the government in its development efforts and completion of its one-year in office. "The successes reflect Begum Zia's sincerity," she said.

Miko Nishimizu, who was also inspired by the good governance,

Law for ICT sector to be enacted

BSS, Dhaka

The government will enact a law for the smooth development of information and communication technology sector in the country.

A meeting was held in this regard yesterday at the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology with ICT Secretary Karar Mahmudul Hasan in the chair.

The meeting entrusted retired additional secretary of Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs Ministry Abul Bashar Bhuiyan with the responsibility of providing necessary advice to formulate a draft of the bill within next three weeks.

High officials of the ministry and the Bangladesh Computer Council were present at the meeting.

said that in the annual meeting of the World Bank held in Washington recently, WB President James D Wolfensohn also lauded the present government's efforts.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister sought more assistance from the World Bank for the country's development sectors, particularly health, education, energy and teachers' training.

She told the WB executive that emphasis would be given on employment generation, poverty reduction and improvement of the condition of children and women.

The Prime Minister said programmes had already been taken for massive development of education, environment, expansion of agro-based industries and poverty alleviation.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui, ERD Secretary Anisul Haq Chowdhury and World Bank Country Representative Fredrick D Temple were also present at the meeting.

UNICEF, Columbia University give 43 sets of EOC equipment

Bangladesh yesterday received 43 sets of Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) equipment worth 1.6 million US dollar from Columbia University and UNICEF.

Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Fazlur Rahman received relevant documents for the equipment from Dr Deborah Maine of Columbia University and Colin Davis, UNICEF's Officer-in-Charge in Bangladesh, at a simple ceremony here yesterday afternoon.

The equipment sets comprising operation theatre, operation table and some anaesthesia facilities will be used in 43 centres in different parts of the country as the government plans to provide 179 comprehensive EOC facilities in 2003, a UNICEF press release said.

Columbia University received from Bill Gates Foundation a huge global donation, of which 11 million US dollar was channeled to UNICEF's South Asian Regional Office (ROSA) in Kathmandu. UNICEF-Bangladesh secured some 5 million US dollar from ROSA for its EOC programme for the period 2000-2003.

Condolence meet

A doa mahfil and condolence meeting will be held in memory of AKM Abdul Aziz (Jahangir), eminent social worker and former director of Bangladesh Betar and National Institute of Mass Communication, at Swamibagh Community Centre in the city at 4.45pm today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abdul Aziz died of prolonged illness at a local clinic on October 11.

He was the founder of Gopibagh Protibeshi Parishad and vice president of Mitali Biddyapith Primary Section.



Shop owners and employees of the New Super Market in the city staged a demonstration on the market premises yesterday protesting the move by the local ward commissioner to make arrangements for the hawkers there.

Soren's father cries for justice

BSS, Mahadevpur, Naogaon

Two years have elapsed since my son was murdered but the case is still pending before the court," said Gayena Soren, father of Alfred Soren of Bhipur village under Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon district.

Alfred Soren, a leader of Adibashi Santal community, was killed on August 18 in 2000 allegedly by the then ruling party goons over an incident of forcible occupation of 250 bighas of Khas land where the Adibashi (indigenous) people have been living for over one hundred years.

"We are poor and ignorant. Many organisations and people came forward following the mur-

der, demanding trial of the killers of my son, but nothing has happened. Now we are disappointed and the killer are making threats to evict us from the village," said Gayena Soren.

Even, he said, the two main accused of the case -- Santosh alias Gadai and Hatem Ali -- are still at large. Local people complained that during the past government's rule, these two accused had been under the shelter of a former minister.

After the killing of Alfred Soren, his sister Rebecca Soren filed two separate cases accusing 91 people. But most of the arrested accused were released on bail and they are now reportedly threatening the family of Alfred Soren to evict

them from their land.

The local people said the same goons who killed Soren have become active again to grab the lands.

Alfred Soren was the only earning member of his family. After his killing, the family members are now leading a miserable life. Jotsna Soren, the widow of Alfred Soren, said that there has been no headway in the case of her husband's murder.

"How can you continue the case without money?" she quoted the lawyers.

JU JCD resumes activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit at Jahangirnagar University (JU) resumed its activities with projection of a recast committee yesterday.

Earlier on Tuesday, the JCD central committee announced a 41-member JU JCD convening committee with Monirul Islam Royal (History) as its convener. Shahidul Islam Jewel, Idris Mia, Rabiul Islam Rabi, HM Harunur Rashid, Nazmul Hasan Ovi and Sharmin Jaban Shilpi were made co-conveners.

The JCD activists brought out a procession on the campus yesterday to celebrate resumption of activities and formation of the new committee. Ashraf Alam Jewel, who was the president of the immediate past committee, introduced the members of the convening committee to the students.

Activities of JCD were suspended in October last year following widespread allegation of extortion and crimes brought

against many of the organisation's leaders and activists. But recently, the BNP lawmakers decided to recast its student wing. Accordingly, the old committees of different universities and districts units were dissolved and new committees have already been formed in some places.

Meanwhile, the 'Arman group', a faction of JCD, expressed dissatisfaction over induction of some 'junior and inactive' activists into the convening committee.

According to the leaders of the JCD central committee, the convening committee is a preparatory unit for the upcoming council of JU unit which will be held on October 24.

"A full-fledged committee will be formed in the October 24 council," said a central committee leader.

900 more post offices to be set up

BSS, Dhaka

About 900 more post offices will be set up in the rural areas by 2005 to make the postal system in the country more effective.

Post and Telecommunications Ministry sources yesterday said that installation of an automatic letter sorting machine at a cost of Tk 28.19 crore was nearing completion.

The setting up of the machine will help ensure quick and safe distribution of letters throughout the country.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

The Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'Madam Bovary' directed by Claude Chabrol. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

Musical soiree

Zonta Club of Dhaka 111 organises a musical soiree titled 'Old is Gold' to be presented by Ruxana Anwar and Agun to support Zonta Arsenic Free Village project at Devpur in Chandpur. Venue: STM Hall Shalastica Senior Campus, Dhaka. Time: 7:00pm.

Autumn fair

The inaugural ceremony of a four-day long Autumn Fair, organised by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), will be held with State Minister Begum Selma Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 3:30pm.

Bird fair

Maula Bakhsa Sardar Memorial Trust organises a bird fair. Venue: Bliquis Banu Smiti auditorium, 24 Mohini Mohon Das Lane, Farashganj. Time: 9:30am.

Drama

Moncho Sromic, a new theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'My Melancholy Face' authored by German Nobel Laureate Heinrich Boll. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium, Baily Road. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Tamuddun Majlish organises a discussion on the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of poet Forukh Ahmed with folklore scientist Dr Ashraf Siddiqui as chief guest. Venue: 141, New Circular Road. Time: 4:30pm.

Conference

The first conference of Greater Dhaka District Roads and Highways Welfare Society will be held with

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Rajuk auditorium, Dilkusha. Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting

A meeting of the central executive committee of Chhatra Parishad will be held. Venue: Parishad Office, 4 Dilkusha. Time: 3:00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Discussion

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs organises a two-day discussion and cultural function on the occasion of one year of alliance government in office with State Minister Begum Selma Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 3:30pm.

Hepatitis B week

The inaugural ceremony of Hepatitis B Action Week 2002 to mark GlaxoSmithKline's global social awareness programme on the disease will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6:30pm.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 10th branch of Premier Bank will be held with Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: House-84, Road-7/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of the Credit and Development Forum (CDF) Microfinance Statistics will be held. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4:00pm.

Animation show

A special computer graphics and animation show, to be presented by Zohurul Islam Sharif, will be held. Venue: Microland auditorium, House-104, Road-9/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 22.0 degree at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30 pm today and rises at 5:58 am tomorrow.

The 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	32.2	22.0	72	65
Chittagong	32.5	25.0	81	73
Rajshahi	32.0	22.5	78	79
Khulna	33.5	23.7	76	77
Barisal	32.4	22.6	80	87
Sylhet	32.5	23.2	83	...
Cox's Bazar	32.0	23.6	85	86

CU reopens tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) will reopen tomorrow after a 12-day vacation.

Resident students have started returning to their respective dormitories after the vacation.

The offices of the university reopened yesterday.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangla-

desh Chhatra League (BCL) and students of the Institution of Marine Science (IMS) have expressed their determination to continue their indefinite siege programme on the campus.

In a press release the BCL CU unit leaders threatened that they would continue the siege programme until their 11-point demand is met.

AERE to bolster tissue bank related research

BSS, Savar

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Research Establishments (AERE) in Savar has assisted 32 hospitals and clinics across the country with over 20,765 soft tissue allografts and lyophilised bones so far after its 'tissue bank' was made operative in 1988.

Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Dr Nayiun Chowdhury said the commission will bolster its 'tissue bank' related research to assist patients suffering from burn injuries such as acid victims and

also for those who need allografts for bridging large bone defects.

He said radiation is used to sterilise the tissue allografts and bones. The AERE in Savar use Cobalt-60-Gamma radiation source in this process. Dr Chowdhury said.

He said tissue banks serve fuels for biological dressing administered by expert physicians. Sterilised (with radiation) lyophilised bone and deep frozen bone can help patients suffering from orthopaedic disorders and accidental deformities.

The BAEC chief said a recent workshop in Dhaka has recommended establishment of a 'Regional (SAARC) Tissue Bank' here for controlling quality of soft tissue allografts and bones apart from launching independent studies in tissue engineering.

He said bone and ligament allograft transplantation is legal in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The AEC scientist said though procurement could be made from deceased donors the AERE is using 'Live donors'.

Tissue bank sources in AERE campus said they are using primary resource (non-processed) from Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Pongu Hospital, Gonosastha Kendra Hospital at Nayarhat and Azampur Maternity hospitals.

2 commit suicide in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

One woman and teenage girl committed suicide by taking poison in the district Wednesday night, hospital sources said.

The girl, identified as Parul, 15, daughter of Abdul Hamid of Gopalpur village under Durgapur upazila of the district, took poison following "undesirable" behaviour from her parents over a family feud.

She was immediately taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at about 9.15 pm where she died before admission.

In another incident, Anwara Begum, 45, wife of Omar Ali of Kapasia village under Morihar thana in the city took poison following a family feud.

She was rushed to the hospital where she died at 2.40 am.

Two separate UD cases were recorded with Rajpara thana in these connections.

The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Gulshan's painting exhibition begins today

'Visual journey', the seventh solo painting exhibition of artist Gulshan Hossain, begins at La Galerie of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka today, says a press release.

French ambassador in Dhaka M Michael Lummaux will inaugurate the exhibition at 5pm as chief guest.

Eminent artist Aminul Islam and Prof Abdus Sattar, Director, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University will be present as guests of honour. Abul Khair Litu, Chairman, Bengal Foundation will be present as special guest.

Twenty-six of her recent paintings will be displayed in this exhibition, most of which will be in oil and some in acrylic.

The exhibition will continue till October 31 and remain open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and from 5pm to 8 pm.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of journalist Akbar Imam will be observed today, says a press release.

During his professional career, Akbar Imam served various newspapers and magazines in several capacities. He also worked for the Morning Sun and Iloidday.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Rahatullah Sarker

The 20th death anniversary of Rahatullah Sarker, a renowned politician and social worker, will be observed today, says a press release.

Rahatullah was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq, Hossain Shaheed Soharwardy and Deshbandhu CR Das. He helped organise the freedom fighters during the Liberation War in 1971.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, quarakhwani, milad mahfil and feeding of the destitute have been arranged at his residence at Parbatipur.