

GRAMEENPHONE, CITY BANK GET BEAUTIFICATION AWARD 2006

Keep city clean, beautiful: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the city dwellers to discharge their responsibility in keeping the city clean and beautiful.

"As a proud resident of this city, do your own duty. Come forward in making the capital so picturesque that as an educated and conscious citizen you have drawn in your mind," she said.

The PM was speaking at the prize giving ceremony of Dhaka City Beautification Award 2006.

Some 80 government and non-government organisations were awarded in different categories for their contribution to the Dhaka city beautification programme.

GrameenPhone and City Bank were awarded for their outstanding contribution. Fifteen distinguished personalities were also given awards for individual contribution.

The Prime Minister said the infrastructure facility and proper, balanced and sustainable development of Dhaka is important as it is the hub of administrative, political, economical, social and cultural activities.

Comparing the present situation of the capital to that of 2001, Khaleda said traffic congestion, black smoke and garbage on the roads were the common features when BNP took power at that time.

But, the present government attached priority to the cleanliness



GrameenPhone Managing Director Erik Aas receives Dhaka City Beautification Award from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday while Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka looks on.

drive, banned worn out vehicles and two-stroke auto-rickshaws for pollution-free environment, modernised traffic system, introduced electronic signal, renovated and expanded roads and footpaths and constructed fly-overs, over-bridges and multi-storied car parking to ease the traffic congestion, she said.

The PM also listed a number of programmes undertaken to beautify

different roads, footpaths and islands, including the Zia International Airport.

Khaleda thanked the private organisations, architects, artists, florists, officials and employees concerned for their contribution to the beautification programme.

To keep the beautification for long time in such a densely populated mega city is impossible, but we made it possible. And it has been

possible as some private organisations came forward along with the government initiative.

Khaleda said the government has called for taking joint initiatives by the government and non-government organisations to beautify other cities and towns. Such programmes have already started in some towns.

She said beautification of Dhaka city with public-private partnership is a remarkable success. New look of Dhaka during the last Saarc Summit enthralled the foreign guests as well as tourists. "Our aim is to turn the Dhaka city as an attractive tourist point."

Referring to immense political and diplomatic importance and historical significance of Dhaka, Khaleda said that proper concentration should be given on maintaining historical structures in the city.

She expected more engagement of private organisations in social and welfare-oriented programmes and hoped that public-private partnership in different socio-economic sectors would be strengthened for enhancing overall national development.

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Coordinator of Dhaka Good Governance and Beautification Committee and PM's Principal Secretary Kamal Siddiqi, Prof Nazmul Islam and the MD of Grameen Bank also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Shushashoner Jonney Nagarik (Shujon) forms a human chain in front of the parliament yesterday during the dialogue between BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, demanding a neutral and independent Election Commission.

DEAL WITH US FIRM

Countrywide internet service in 10 years

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed a deal with Always On Network (AON) under which the US-based IT firm will build necessary infrastructure and network in information communications technology sector for providing cheaper internet service all over Bangladesh.

As per provision of the 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), AON will directly invest 60 million dollar for ICT training, setting internet exchange, tower and countrywide network, cooperating to set high-tech zone and start e-commerce.

Secretary of Science and Information Communications Technology Ministry Khan M Ibrahim Hossain and Chief Executive Officer of AON Quentin H Breen signed the MoU on behalf of their respective side.

Science and Information Communications Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan was present at the signing ceremony at PID.

Breen told the journalists that the project of the internet service-providing company would initially cover 85 percent area of the country and the rest would be covered gradually.

"We will introduce two kinds of

services - one is corporate business service and another public service. The corporate subscribers will have to pay 500 dollars per month and the second-category subscribers will have to pay only six dollars per month," said Breen.

"Any school in any village of the country will have the access to wireless broadband connection under the project. And AON will provide its free service to the primary schools," the CEO of AON added.

"It is a profitable venture, but our first priority is to provide the internet access to the mass people, not profit," said Dr Moyeen Khan.

"With the motivation of providing internet access to the young of each school, college and educational institution I have been pleading to my government for long," he said, adding that he sought for the project budget from all the donor countries, but no one did come forward.

"At last I have to look to the private sector for the budget of the project, and it is AON which came forward to help us," Dr Moyeen Khan told the journalists.

The project will first initiate radio-link wave and progressively introduce the fiber-optic link. It will have several base stations at 87 points across the country, which will include 19 in Dhaka.

Principal Information Officer M

Muhaddes, Commercial Operational Officer of AON Dan Stanton and staff engineer of the project Reaz Shaheed also spoke at the press briefing.

Sikri for regular Indo-Bangla dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri yesterday stressed the need for regular dialogue to resolve the unsettled issues between Bangladesh and India for the sake of the peoples of the two countries.

She made the comment during a meeting with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his secretariat office.

They also discussed matters of mutual interest.

He also hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries would further be consolidated in future to mutual interest.

Cancel housing project, set up hospital, IT centre

Iraq-Kuwait returnees demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Association for the Welfare of Bangladeshi Repatriates from Iraq-Kuwait yesterday demanded cancellation of a housing project on its land at Baridhara in the city and establishment of a modern kidney hospital and an information technology centre there instead.

The association leaders also threatened to launch a tougher movement, including laying siege to the Bureau of Employment and Training, if the government does not meet their 10-point demand by October 15.

They will also submit a memorandum to both the prime minister and the leader of the opposition in parliament on October 16.

The previous Awami League government approved a project of hospital and IT centre to be set up on 151.54 kathas of land belonging to the association, but the present government had initiated a housing project instead, said Ahmed Ullah Ratan, general secretary of the Association, at a press conference in the city.

The association has repeatedly protested the move, but the ruling four-party alliance took no heed, he added.

He demanded that the government make an announcement of the hospital project immediately through the media.

The leaders also called on the government to take an initiative to collect compensation from the United Nations for the losses suffered by 444 Bangladeshi detainees during the Iraq-Kuwait war and pay the money to them.

Association President Noor Mohammad Siddiqui, Vice-presidents Khairuzzaman and Mizanul Haque Mizan and Organising Secretary Abu Taher Sarkar also spoke at the press conference.

Dialogue, agitation to go on side by side: 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Abdur Razzak yesterday said dialogue and street agitation will go on side by side as Bangabandhu did against the Pakistani rulers in 1970-71 to realise the implementation of reform proposals.

"Justice KM Hasan (who is supposed to be the chief of the next caretaker government) is in no way a non-partisan person. He was the international affairs secretary during the formation of BNP," said Razzak while addressing a rally as chief guest at Muktangan in the city.

The rally was organised by AL-led 14-party opposition combine city

unit as part of the countrywide agitation rallies demanding uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Abdur Razzak said the assurance of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for solving electricity crisis is only a trick to coming to power again.

People today cannot perform their religious activities in peace, the farmers fail to irrigate their land and the students cannot study properly, he added.

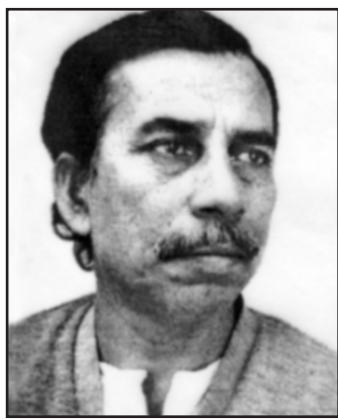
Presiding over the rally, 14-party city unit Coordinator Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said electricity crisis has been deepened due to corruption of the family members of the prime minister.

"They plundered Tk 15,000 crore in the last five years, which is why

the government could not produce even a single megawatt electricity," Maya said, adding that people will give befitting reply to such corruption in next general election.

AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury, Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former home minister Mohammad Nasim, Haji Selim, Advocate Sahara Khatun, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Mainuddin Khan Badal and Gono Forum leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu were present on the occasion.

After the rally, a big procession was brought out with participants carrying lanterns, oil lamps, tube lights and posters in their hands.



Contribution of Comrade Farhad recalled

Death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comrade Mohammad Farhad, former general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), was one of the architects of the country's liberation war, independence and democracy, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said he had immense contribution to organising student, labour and women's movements to realise their rights apart from flourishing the party.

The discussion was organised by the CPB at its office in the city to mark the 19th death anniversary of Comrade Farhad today.

While presiding over the discussion, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said widespread corruption, price hike of essentials and power outage have made people's life miserable.

He said free and fair election in the country has become uncertain due to undue influence of millionaires over the entire electoral process.

The CPB leaders urged all to intensify their fight against the misuse of BNP-led four-party alliance government.

To mark Farhad's death anniversary, Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust have taken different programmes including placing of wreaths at his Banani grave at 7:00am today and a commemorating discussion at the Trust Bhaban at 11:00am on October 14.

A doa mahfil will be held at the residence of his wife Rasheda Khanam at 94/F, Azimpur Colony after Asr prayers.

Colleagues, political leaders, admirers and relatives have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

'Withdraw price hike of CU admission form'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Protagisthil Chhatra Jote Chittagong University (CU) unit yesterday formed a human chain demanding withdrawal of increased price of admission form.

The jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, formed the hour-long chain in front of the Chittagong Press Club.

Later addressing a rally, the leaders threatened to lay siege to the banks selling the admission form from October 15.

They also vowed to hold a teacher-student-guardian solidarity rally in front of the press club on October 12 and bring out a protest procession from Chittagong Shaheed Minar on October 14.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Kanchan Sarker presided over the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League-led 14-party stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding uninterrupted supply of power.

Police officer drugged, robbed while travelling in bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police officer was drugged and robbed of his mobile phone and money in a passenger coach on Saturday night.

Mahbubul Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramu Police Station in Cox's Bazar, was coming to Dhaka from Chittagong for official purposes by a Volvo bus, but he was found unconscious when the bus reached the Shohag Paribahan bus stand at Malibagh at 8:30pm.

On receiving information, Khilgaon police took him to the Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On his way to Dhaka, the police officer took lift when the bus reached Comilla, said Sub-Inspector Kawsar of Khilgaon Police Station.

He became unconscious as a gang of criminals, known as Agyan party, might have mixed some drugs with his food, he added.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 34.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:38pm today and rises at 5:53am 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	33.4	25.8	68	65
Chittagong	33.5	26.0	78	83
Rajshahi	33.0	25.0	83	82
Khulna	33.5	26.7	73	78
Barisal	33.4	25.5	80	86
Sylhet	34.3	24.2	76	74
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.2	81	76



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Amin Textiles Mills stage a sit-in in Chittagong yesterday demanding payment of salary arrears.

DHAKA TODAY

View exchange

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a view exchange meeting with the journalists on its position on the Ninth General Election. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Sangskritik Academy organises a discussion on 'Multi-party democracy and Shaheed Zia'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organises a discussion to mark the World Mental Health Day. Venue: DAM auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Workshop

British Council (BC) will hold a workshop on 'Distance learning programme in Aquatic Resource Development (ARD)'. Venue: BC auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Fashion exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a Group Fashion Exhibition organised by Department of Craft, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery. Time: 10:30am.