

Call for successful completion of Doha Round talks

METRO DESK

Speakers at a dialogue at the Geneva Trade and Development Symposium have called for successful completion of Doha round negotiations.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the session on 'Current Stalemate in Doha Round Negotiations and Prospects for Market Improvement for LDC Products and Services' on Wednesday in collaboration with the International Centre for trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) during the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ambassadors of LDCs, high officials of international organisations and think tanks, and trade experts took part in the dialogue chaired by the CPD Executive Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman.

Jean Feyder, ambassador of Luxembourg to WTO and chairman of WTO sub-

committee on LDCs, said that despite the uncertainties around the Doha Round negotiations, the pressure for implementation of the Hong Kong decision of the duty-free, quota-free market access has to be pursued.

He also emphasised the need for the utilisation of available market access facilities.

Dr Mothae Marupingo, ambassador of Lesotho to WTO and former coordinator of LDCs in WTO, emphasised early completion of a successful Doha Round negotiations.

He pointed out that various constraints in terms of rules of origin and non-tariff barriers should be removed and additional resources have to be committed.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, special adviser on LDCs, Office of the Secretary General, UNCTAD, and former ambassador of Bangladesh to WTO, mentioned that the statement that LDCs are not undertaking any

obligations in the Doha negotiations is not true. Because of suffering preference erosion due to tariff reduction commitments by developed and developing countries, LDCs are taking commitments.

Two priorities for LDCs are the issue of DFQF market access and temporary movement of natural persons under Mode 4 of the GATS agreement, he reiterated.

Annet Blank, counsellor and head of LDC Unit, WTO, focused on the issue of increased capacity building in LDCs along with greater market access.

She said that aid for trade package will be helpful to increase productive capacity, remove supply side constraints and to boost their competitiveness.

Dr David Luke, senior adviser and coordinator, UNDP, emphasised the need for enhanced integrated framework (EIF) under which funds for the trade capacity

building will be available.

Dr Shishir Priyodorski of WTO said that in order to utilise the opportunity of market access for 100 percent tariff lines, LDCs have to increase their supply side capacity.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman said that LDCs are still grappling with the same old demands of market access for all products and services originated from their countries.

Given the fact that global financial crisis has been an additional predicament for LDCs in terms of decreased exports of LDCs, the need for a successful completion of Doha round negotiations becomes all the more important, he added.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Annisul Huq, CPD's researcher Dr Fahmida Khatun, private sector representative Dipu were also present at the dialogue.



Parliament Members' Forum on Climate Change forms a human chain at Kuakata beach in Barguna yesterday demanding steps to offset the impacts of climate change. (Story on Page 1)



Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday on her arrival at Zia International Airport in the city from Trinidad and Tobago. (Story on Page 16)



Death anniversary of Suhrawardy today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 46th death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, one of the greatest leaders of undivided India.

Different organisations have taken up various programmes to pay homage to Suhrawardy, who dedicated his life to ensuring welfare of the people by upholding democracy above all.

In separate messages yesterday, President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tribute to Suhrawardy, who pioneered secular politics in this region.

"The pioneering role of Suhrawardy in the struggle of the Muslims to protect their political and socio-economic rights will be ever remembered," Hasina said in her message.

In another message, Deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said Suhrawardy made outstanding contribution to establishing justice and the rule of law.

The day's programmes will begin in the morning with placing of wreaths at the mazar of Suhrawardy.

Awami League, Gono Forum, Jatiya Party (Manju) and Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will place wreaths at his mazar and offer fateha.

Villagers go berserk after brick field worker killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Agitated villagers went on a rampage and made arson attacks on a brick field after one of its workers was killed at Baktaboli in Fatulla, Narayanganj, yesterday.

The victim, Wasim, who had been working in the brick field for the last one month, was found slaughtered in his shanty at a slum nearby in the morning.

His murder triggered violence by his relatives and villagers who suspected that the owner of the brick field

Amzad Hossain, manager Mukul and their relative Berek were behind the killing. They set fire to the brick kiln.

Agitated locals and relatives of Wasim beat up Mukul and had kept seven policemen confined for two hours when they rushed to the scene to bring the situation under control.

Agitating people were locked in an altercation with the policemen and hurled stones and brickbats at them.

Later, more policemen rushed to the spot and rescued critically injured Mukul from the mob and brought the

situation under control.

Locals said criminals killed Wasim by cutting veins of his hands and legs with sharp weapons.

Officer-in-Charge of Fatullah Model Police Station Jibon Kanti Sarker told reporters that they have arrested injured Mukul and a murder case was filed with the police station.

He also said policemen have been deployed in the area to avoid further untoward incidents.

However, Amjad and Berek went into hiding after the incident.

Reception to Shykh Seraj, Shamsher Ali

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) yesterday accorded a gala reception to media personality Shykh Seraj and physicist Dr Shamsher Ali for their winning of two international awards.

Shykh Seraj, director and head of news of Channel i, has clinched the prestigious AH Boerma Award Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for 2008-09 in October for his contribution to the agriculture sector.

Dr Shamsher Ali, vice chancellor of Southeast University, won the 'Lifetime Educational Leadership 2009' in November. The Selection Committee of the International University Leadership Colloquium of Malaysia chose him for the award.

DUAA presented crests and citations to the awardees at the function held at the alumni floor of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan on the DU campus.

DUAA President Syed Manzur Elahi congratulated the awardees, saying that they [awardees] have brightened the image of Bangladesh by winning the awards.

Shykh Seraj said achieving development is impossible by ignoring 11 crore farmers in the country.

FAO Representative in Bangladesh Ad Spijkers and Secretary General of DUAA Rakibuddin Ahmed also spoke.

Bagerhat BNP president files case against two leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

President of newly formed Bagerhat district BNP Advocate Shamsul Huq filed a case with the Paltan Police Station in Dhaka against four people, including his two fellow leaders, on Thursday on charges of snatching money and party documents.

The accused are Bagerhat BNP leaders Prof Ali Reza Babu and Mian Abbasuddin, Chhatra Dal leader Milon and car driver Siraj.

In his complaint, Advocate Shamsul Huq stated that the accused snatched Tk 25,700 and some important documents of the party from him near the party's central office in Dhaka at about 2:00pm on Thursday when he was going to the central office to meet Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

When contacted, Prof Ali Reza Babu denied the allegation. "The case has been filed to tarnish my political image," he said.

The new Bagerhat BNP committee was formed on November 30 without any council and Advocate Shamsul Huq and ATM Akram Hossain Talim were made president and general secretary respectively.

But a faction of the party led by Prof Ali Reza Babu strongly opposed the formation of the committee, terming it a violation of the party's constitution.

Akhter Ahmed's body arrives today

BSS, Dhaka

Body of journalist Akhter Ahmed Khan will arrive Dhaka this afternoon by a Qatar Airways flight, sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here yesterday.

The Qatar Airways flight carrying the body will start from Doha at local 8.45am and will reach Dhaka at 5.45pm, the sources said.

Akhter, 54, minister (press) in Washington, passed away due to a severe cardiac arrest at his Rockville residence in Maryland in the USA on November 29.

Family sources said his body will be kept in the mortuary of Birdem tonight. The body will be taken to Jatiya Press Club tomorrow morning for the people to pay their last respects to him.

Later, his namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque and will be buried at Jurain graveyard.

Obituary

METRO DESK



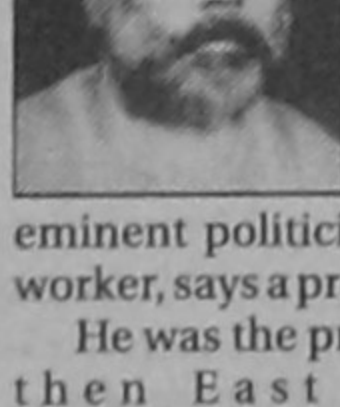
Khurshida Hamid, mother of noted sports journalist Dilu Khandaker, passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 70.

She left behind her husband, four sons and one daughter to mourn her death.

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) condoled the death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Hajj Md Selim, a Language Movement veteran, eminent politician and social worker, says a press release.

He was the president of the then East Pakistan Convention Muslim League, Dhaka, chief adviser of the weekly Joy Jatra and acting administrator of Dhaka City Corporation.

His family has requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Tributes paid to Sheikh Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday called on the young generation to materialise the dream of building a golden Bangladesh using the spirit, wisdom and principles of Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni.

Moni, nephew of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founding chairman of Bangladesh Awami Juba League, is the name of courage and inspiration for youths and he would live in his ideals, they added.

Juba League organised the meeting at Engineering Institute of Bangladesh in the city to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Sheikh Moni.

Speaking as the chief guest, Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said Moni was very knowledgeable and his wisdom and far-sightedness helped the country in many ways.

Moni had a great strength to organise the youths and formed the Mujib Bahini, the Awami

League leader added.

The killers knew that whom to be killed first and that's why, they killed Moni, Sajeda said, adding, "We would not have had such struggle if Moni could be alive."

"He would never be aged, he would live in his ideals," she said, urging the leaders and activists of Juba League to spread Moni's ideals for building a golden Bangladesh.

Awami League presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said Moni had the courage and capability to lead which now very few people have.

State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak urged the youths to work for realising the pledges of the government using the ideals of Moni.

Presided over by Omar Faruque Chowdhury, acting chairman of Bangladesh Awami Juba League, the meeting was also addressed by AFM Mezbah Uddin, president of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, and Mirza Azam, general secretary of Bangladesh Juba League.

30 hurt in AL-BNP clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least 30 people, including several women, were injured in two separate clashes between supporters of Awami League (AL) and BNP in Narsingdi yesterday.

At least ten AL supporters were struck by fishing spears, locally known as 'teta', when a group of BNP supporters led by Usman Miah started ransacking and looting the houses of people loyal to AL at Nabipura village.

Injured Amir Ali, 40, Kabir

Mia, 36, Josna Begum, 40, Rabeya Begum, 30, Tahera Begum, 38, and Shukkur Begum, 50, were rushed to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

In another incident in Khodadila village in the remote char area, a group of AL supporters loyal to Dr Siddiq ransacked the houses of BNP supporters loyal to Safar Ali.

At least 20 of both the groups were struck by spears.

A farmer of Khodadila village said villagers have started fleeing the village fearing further violence.



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

The Met Office said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 7:28am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.5 degrees Celsius at Srirangal.

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	28.1	17.2	69	64
Chittagong	28.2	17.7	80	67
Rajshahi	27.0	14.2	91	82
Khulna	27.5	17.0	92	81
Barisal	27.8	16.0	84	93
Sylhet	29.5	17.4	82	70
Cox's Bazar	29.8	17.8	64	71

DHAKA TODAY

Dance

A dance programme titled 'Arongtorm' will be held. Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy. Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

The daily Prothom Alo organises a roundtable on 'Bangladesh-India Relations'. Venue: Fourth Floor, The daily Prothom Alo office. Time: 10:00am.

Film show

Steps towards Development organises a two-day film show to mark International Fortnight to Protest Violence against Women. Venue: Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bhavan auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of 'Building bridges through leadership training' of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre will be held. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 3:20pm.

Discussion

Nagorik Sanghati will hold a discussion to disseminate the information derived from a recent study on water management projects. Venue: Mani Singh Farhad Trust Bhavan. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Bangladesh rout Bhutan

FROM PAGE 1

20,000-strong crowd at the Big Bowl under the floodlights.

There was no danger of a repeat of the 1-1 draw at the SAFF Championships in Colombo last year as Shahidur Rahman Shantoo's charges adopted a high pressing game that forced their opponents into a bevy of mistakes.

Bangladesh maintained a high tempo throughout the game, a fact that surprised numerous fans and it must owe a lot to strong physical conditioning in the last few months and the continuity of football through the Bangladesh League.

The home side started with a vigour forcing three corners

in the opening minutes and it was no surprise when they took the lead in the 11th minute as defender Pranotosh tapped the ball in from a goalmouth melee, after Nasir's right-wing cross had created havoc.

Soon it was 2-0 as Enamul was given too much time and room inside the box and he blasted the ball into the back of the net. The burly striker could have scored another just minutes later had his header not rebounded off the post and away to safety.

With the hosts threatening to run riot, Bhutan found an unlikely way back into the match after the referee adjudged Rajani Barman to have impeded Nawang

Dendup inside the box.

The forward dusted himself off and dispatched the resulting penalty to send the sides in 2-1 at the break.

After the breather, Bangladesh continued their onslaught and Enamul got his second goal after flicking on a Mehdi Hasan Ujjal free-kick from the left.

And Emily, who had looked dangerous all evening, applied the coup de grace in the 72nd minute to get the goal he richly deserved.

The fleet-footed forward danced past Bhutan goalkeeper Leki and fired home from a tight angle to give Bangladesh a rousing start in their bid to win the title.

Yunus urges all to work more

FROM PAGE 1

accorded the reception.

Eminent Jurist Barrister Rafiqul Haque, National Professor MR Khan, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam handed over the awards and crests to the recipients.

The recipients are: founder of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) Valerie Taylor, founder of Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College and Hospital Dr MM Amjad Hossain and Bangladesh radiation physicist residing in Germany Dr Golam Abu Zakaria.

"We have achieved tremendous success in health sector, for which we can take pride as anation" Dr Yunus said.

He called upon the

oncologists to bid farewell to cancer from Bangladesh. He said, "We have to work for reducing child and maternal mortality in the country."

Valerie Taylor dedicated herself for the disabled people of Bangladesh by setting up the CRP.

Dr MM Amjad Hossain devoted himself to providing modern medical treatment in the rural area of Bangladesh.

Dr Zakaria has made valuable contribution to improve medical physics in Bangladesh especially in the treatment of cancer patients.

The Oncologist Club will accord another reception to the Fellows who have already completed their advanced training in the US, Germany

and Singapore with Oncology Club Fellowships.

Doctors, specialists, media personalities, activists against cancer, print and visual media representatives attended the ceremony conducted by noted cancer specialist and Professor Emeritus ABMF Karim.

Delivering presidential speech, Prof Karim said the Oncology Club has taken up a massive project involving Tk 10 crore for 3,000 rural women to protect them from cancer.

He said the club had already provided 50 poor women with preventive vaccine costing Tk 10 lakh donated by the GrameenPhone.