METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

WFTO CONFERENCE BEGINS

DHAKA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

'Strengthen fair trade for marginal producers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day biannual conference of World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) of Asia region kicked off yesterday with a call to strengthen fair trade to create opportunities for small and marginal producers and artisans.

Fair trade is an alternative trading approach that seeks greater equity in international trade to help empower marginal producers.

Participants said fair trade, as a movement, is expanding both at home and abroad. But more needs to be done to help small producers, artisans and workers so they get greater share of the growing global trade, they added.

From 2004 to 2009, fair trade has seen four-fold growth in sales taking the number from 832 million euros to 3,400, said Durreen Shahnaz, founder and chairperson of Impact Investment Exchange, a social stock exchange in Asia.

"This is an average yearly growth of

2 criminals

in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two criminals were wounded

in a gunfight with Rapid

Action Battalion (Rab) in the

city's Mohammadpur area

Arshad alias Ashraf, 21, and

Mohammad Babul Akter

challenged a group of youths

on suspicion at Basila. The

gang, at one stage, opened fire

on the Rab men forcing them

arrested two muggers with

bullet injuries in their legs

from the spot and recovered

two firearms, two machetes

and five mobile sets from

them. Their accomplices,

however, managed to flee, said

The injured were admitted

to the National Institute of

Traumatology and Orthopaedic

Rehabilitation (NITOR).

After the gunfight, Rab

to retaliate, said Rab sources.

A patrol team of Rab-2

They are Mohammad

wounded

with Rab

early yesterday.

Shamim, 22.

the sources.

over 30 percent for five years running. In other words, the world is waking up to your [fair trade organisations and social enterprises] efforts and embracing the practices wholeheartedly," added Durreen in her keynote speech.

She, however, demanded that social enterprises (SEs) get easier access to capital to expand their business.

ECOTA Fair Trade Forum (EFTF) organised the meet at Brac-CDM at Ashulia, on the outskirt of Dhaka. More than 120 local and foreign delegates including from European countries, USA, Japan, China, and India attended the programme.

Dhaka University (DU) Vice-chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, World Fair Trade Forum (WFTF) Chair Paul Myers and WFTF Asia Representative Claribel David addressed the opening session.

fair trade for economic empowerment of the marginal communities.

Paul Myers called upon fair trade clude on September 26.

An hour later, they attacked

Badiuzzaman's Care Dia-

gnostic Centre and Abdur

Rahim's Boishakhi Medical

Centre at Laxmipur and dam-

aged computer, furniture and

Eight people, including

Some 95 RHD contractors

patients, were injured at the

negotiated two bridge-

construction works worth

around Tk 5 crore with two

contractors, Nure Alam Siddik

Shilpi of Rajshahi and Dewan

Sekar Ahmed Shishan of

Naogaon several months back.

ation was the duo, after getting

work orders, would distribute

Tk 1 crore among the 95 con-

tractors who purchased bid

become angry during distribu-

tion of the money on Thursday

night when the contractors

wanted to distribute Tk 50 lakh.

half of the promised money.

Most other contractors

documents for the works.

The condition of the negoti-

other goods.

pathologies.

3 establishments,

injure 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Armed contractors of Roads

and Highways Department

(RHD) vandalised three pri-

vate establishments, includ-

ing two diagnostic centres,

belonging to rival contractors

in Laxmipur and Dharampur

areas of the city on Thursday,

following a dispute over

distribution of Tk 1 crore

negotiation money of the Tk 5

crore bridge construction

work of Naogaon RHD among

armed men led by Rajpara

BNP's Organising Secretary Shafikul Islam, also a RHD

contractor, swooped on

Harunur Rashid's office, Don

Enterprise, at Dharampur at

hockey sticks and rods, they

beat up Harun and his brother

Nazrul Islam mercilessly.

Equipped with machetes,

around 9:00pm.

Police said around 20

95 contractors, police said.

The attack was made

leaving 10 injured.

Rajshahi

promoters for awareness building campaigns among consumers to create wider markets for the producers of poor artisan communities.

Organisers said global trade is expanding and export of developing countries is increasing with large inequalities still looming.

For every \$1 generated through exports in the international trading system, low-income countries account for only three cents, according to a publication of ECOTA Fair Trade Forum that works with the artisan communities at home and abroad.

Presently, EFTF members work with over 1,15,000 artisans. Of them 80 percent are women, it claims.

Abdul Awal, chairperson of EFTF in Bangladesh, said governments should provide support to create congenial Prof Arefin stressed the importance of environment for small producers and social enterprises.

The conference is scheduled to con-

Contractors ransack Teenage girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a teenage girl from her Pallabi residence in the city yesterday

The deceased was identified as Tania Akter, 16, daughter of Abbas Uddin of Kotali Para in Go-

Police said she committed suicide but could not

Sub-Inspector (SI) of Pallabi Police Station Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star that they recovered the body from the sixth floor of the six-storey building.

Residents of the house said she hung herself with a scarf from the grill of a win-

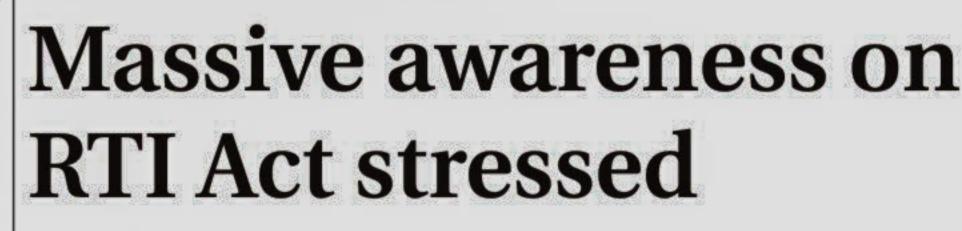
allegedly commits suicide

morning.

palganj.

confirm the cause.

dow, he added.



DU CORRESPONDENT

Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim yesterday said massive mass-awareness should be raised in the society for the successful implementation of Right to Information Act.

তথ্য অধিকার নিশ্চিদ

করার লক্ষ্যে প্রত্যেক কর্তুদ

প্রতিষ্ঠানের যাবতীয় তথ্যে

क्याछानगं वदः रेनएका

व्रक्त काव स्थायकार

ऋत्यक्षा वर्षा

Information Day to be observed on September 28.

She said the information commission and government are working to aware designated officials to provide information for proper implementation of right to information act. The commissioner was inaugurating a weeklong campaign as a part of celebrating International Right to Information Day on September 28.

Tathya Adhikar Andolan, a movement for right to information, and Nagorik Uddyog jointly arranged the week-long campaign in the capital, says a press release.

In order to create demand for the information, non-governmental organisations, citizens' groups and media should come forward and launch campaign to raise massive awareness among people, Sadeka added. Chief Executive of Nagorik Uddyog Jakir

Hossain said they have chalked out various

programmes across the country to celebrate

Tathya Odhikar Andolan forms a human chain at Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday ahead of the International Right to

वाशात वाभवात

त्या विश्वत वारंत मन्यत

the upcoming day with due festivity to raise consciousness among people about their right to information. After the inaugurating session, the theatre team of Tathya Adhikar Andolan staged a street

drama on right of people to the information followed by a colourful procession. The procession marched several streets on

Dhaka University campus and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Bangladesh's citrus fruit exports yet to rise

UNB, Dhaka

Export of citrus fruits from the country is yet to find momentum due to pest infestation, post harvest losses, peak season glut and lack of proper information about both domestic and export markets.

ings and more income for the growers by increasing the yield of quality citrus fruits in the country," said Debashish Chanda, assistant general manager (Marketing) of Hortex Foundation. The foundation facilitates export of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Talking to the news agency, he said climate of Bangladesh is very favorable for growing different varieties of citrus fruits.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, about 120,846 metric tonnes of citrus fruits were produced in the country in 2007-08 on some 6,615 hectares of land.

The main exportable citrus fruits to ethnic markets of Europe and Middle East include various types of lemons and limes like Ada Lebu, Elachi Lebu, Zara Lebu, Kagji Lebu, and "Satkara".

Chanda observed that export of citrus fruits to the EU market is yet to become stable due to improper cultivation management as well as inability to control diseases.

He said, "Farmers often do not get diseasefree saplings while there is very little contact farming of citrus fruits. Farmers often harvest premature and over-mature fruits that result in difficulties to maintain standard size, shape and quality."

Chanda opined that export quality of the produces deteriorate due to a lack of postharvest management. "Farmers need to be given training on the subject," he said.

He said the EU is now looking for procuring citrus fruits from disease-free zones in Bangladesh after it found "canker disease" in fruits exported from certain areas of the country.

To identify the disease-free zones, Hortex Foundation in association with the "There is scope for increasing export earn- Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) visited different citrus fruit fields in some areas of Narsingdi and Sylhet in May-June this year.

Most of the citrus fields in Sylhet were found infected with diseases while the fields of Narsingdi were found disease-free. A EU delegation also visited Bangladesh in June to identify the disease-free zones. After the visit, Hortex Foundation sug-

gested exporters to collect citrus fruits from Narsingdi and also recommended the Quarantine Department of Khamarbari to issue "Phyto Sanitary Certificate" on citrus fruits from Narsingdi.

Sources at Export Promotion Bureau said fruit and vegetable export is likely to rise in 2009-10 fiscal than in 2008-09, with earnings touching US \$64.21 million from export of some 30,000 metric tonnes.

The volume of fruit and vegetable export in the 2008-09 fiscal was 24,670 metric tonnes, earning US\$ 50.71 million, while the highest export earnings in the sector was US\$ 69.12 million in 2007-08 fiscal with export of 33,626 metric tonnes.

The UK alone accounts for around 45 percent of Bangladesh's total export of vegetables and fruits while the other major exporting destinations are France, Italy, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE Bahrain, Oman, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Country to make **CNG-driven** auto-rickshaw

BSS, Dhaka

The government has embarked upon a plan to manufacture three-wheeler CNG-driven auto rickshaws at home aimed at replacing the city's nonmotorized rickshaws.

The Ministry of Industries took a nine-year project involving initial Taka 26.84 million to manufacture the passenger vehicle by using local expertise and spare parts.

Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre and Bangladesh steel and **Engineering Corporation** (BSEC), both autonomous bodies under the ministry of Industries, are the implementing agencies of the project.

"The country's first ever effort to manufacture the easy-going transport vehicle using local spare parts aimed at easing traffic congestion... Dr Ihsanul Karim, acting director of BITAC, told the news agency yesterday.

Approximately 2,000 3W CNG-driven rickshaws could be produced every year depending on availability of local light and medium indus-

tries, said Dr Karim. BITAC director said largescale manufacture of the three wheeler (3W)CNG-run rickshaws will be done with massive use of small and medium workshops located in the city's Dholaikhal, a hub of the country's potential light

engineering workshops. Dr Karim also said that an initial estimation of Tk 2.50 lakh might be charged for each 3W CNG-run auto rickshaw equipped with locally-

produced sustainable light and medium industries. Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Today is the 13th death anni-

versary of Nurun Nahar Samad, wife of the first foreign minister of the country Abdus Samad Azad. On the occasion, a doa

mahfil will be organised at

Kalabagan Lakeview Jame Mosque by Abdus Samad Azad Foundation. Relatives, friends and well-

wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed

Nurun Nahar passed away at a city hospital in 1997. She was founder member of Bangladesh Mohila Samity and Bangladesh Mothers

Association. She also inspired her husband in politics.

Obituary

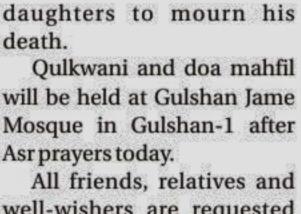


Abed Hussain Khan, son of late Yaswar Hussain Khan of UP, India, passed away on Thursday, said a press

release. Khan is the son-in-law of Murtaza Reza Chowdhury of Rajshahi House, Boro Moghbazar, Dhaka and married to Farhadi Khan.

He left behind two death.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the mahfil.



will be held at Gulshan Jame Mosque in Gulshan-1 after Asr prayers today.



Locals punish two muggers by keeping them in chest-deep water along with their legs chained together, inset, in the city's Hatirjheel

Lake yesterday. They were caught red handed while fleeing after committing the crime behind Sonargaon Hotel.

Change in temperature unlikely UNB, Dhaka

Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by

temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over

Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and

country, Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:52pm and rises tomorrow at 5:48am.

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degrees at Sylhet. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in City/Town **Humidity** in

Celsius percentage Morning Evening Max: Min: Dhaka 32.5 26.8 Chittagong 25.0 30.6 79 Rajshahi 25.0 88 96 34.2 Khulna 33.8 26.6 76 Barisal 32.2 26.0 80 Sylhet 32.0 24.0 79 80 Cox's Bazar 32.1 25.7 83 81

'Attribute Altaf Mahmud as martyred freedom fighter'

Bss, Dhaka

As the trial of war criminals started it came as a big relief for Shawan Mahmud, the only child of martyred famous lyricist and musician Altaf Mahmud.

The relief came on her like thousand other orphaned freedoms fighters' children who were bearing painful deprivation and agony seeing war criminals going unpunished for over last three decades.

"From (my) student life at various forums, I demanded the trial of the heinous war criminals. Now it has started ... you know when the trial began it gave me a relief," Shawan with flicker of light in the eyes told the news agency.

Sahwan Mahmud wants her father to be attributed as martyred freedom fighter not as Shaheed intellectual as he was killed while waging war against the occupation Pakistan army and their collaborators during the War of Liberation in 1971.

"My father died in fighting as freedom fighter as member of crack platoon even though he was a musician. He might be killed

any day on this month in 1971 with utmost brutality by the occupation force aided by Razakars and Al Badars," she said.

Altaf Mahmud joined the crack platoon, the most heroic guerilla group of freedom fighters, who were conducting operation inside Dhaka with a desire to participate in the war directly apart from his regular job of writing lyrics and tuning songs.

"I knew my father is no more .. but I would like to know what was date when my father was killed at least," she said and hoped that the date of fateful day of killing of her father and what happened to her father will be come out during the ongoing investigation of the war crimes tribunal.

During the War of Liberation, Altaf Mahmud turned his residence into a base camp of the members of crack platoon, where they took rest and hide their arms and ammunition.

"It was at 5.30 in the morning of August 30, 1971, when our house was raided and my father was taken away by the Pak army right in front of our eyes. No one of the house did know that my father and freedom fighters had hidden arms in the ground near our house," Shawan said.



* ১০০% নিক্টক, রেজিট্রেশন সহ রেডি প্লট বৃবো নিন।

দক্ষিনমুখী, কর্নার, লেকভিউ এ্যাপোলো হাসপাতাল, ৩০০ ফুট রাস্তা সংলগ্ন। জমিতে বিনিয়োগ সবচেয়ে পাভজনক এবং এক বছরে দিখন।



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