

International Film Festival in city from Sept 18

36 countries confirm participation so far

BSS, Dhaka

Thirty-six countries have so far confirmed their participation in the International Film Festival to be held in Dhaka from September 18-25.

Organisers hope that the number of participating countries will go up, said an official release.

A joint meeting of the festival's advisory committee and steering committee here yesterday reviewed the overall preparations.

Information minister and chief

adviser of the festival Tariqul Islam attended the meeting.

Festival committee president AH Mofazzal Karim presided. Information Secretary Nazmul Alam Siddiqui, senior officials of the ministry, Editor of Jai Jai Din Shafiq Rehman, Editor of daily Sangbad Bazlur Rahman, representatives of newspapers and electronic media, leaders of film related organisations and high officials concerned attended the meeting.

About 100 foreign films and 23

Bangladeshi films will be screened at the festival. The films will be shown in 24 cinema halls of Dhaka and Narayanganj and at the Central Public Library, National Museum, British Council and the Russian Cultural Centre.

The films, to be shown in the festival, have been divided into eight categories -- Bangladesh Panorama, International Showcase, Classic Showcase, Popular Showcase, Winner of the Don Quixote, International Competition, Focus and Retrospective.

A five-member jury board with two members each from Asia and Europe, and one from Bangladesh will adjudge the films for awards. The best film will fetch 6,000 dollar while two other special nominees will get 2000 dollar each.

Tariqul Islam urged all concerned to make the festival a grand success. He gave the assurance of all possible assistance of his ministry and mass media for ensuring successful holding of the international film festival.



The coordinating committee for action to save the Kapotakha forms a human chain in the city yesterday demanding immediate measures to save the river through dredging.

FBUTA protests UGC directive

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday protested the directive of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to postpone the appointment and promotion of teachers at all public universities in the country.

In a statement, FBUTA President Prof Abul Khayer and Secretary General Prof Khandaker Shariful Islam demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision.

They said the academic activities of the public universities are being hampered due to the UGC directive that has stopped appointment and promotion of teachers.

The UGC had formed a high-powered committee to draft fresh regulations for appointment and promotion of teachers in all public universities last month.

FM condoles death of Mello

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has condoled the death of Sergio Vieira De Mello, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Iraq.

In a message to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the foreign minister condemned the attack in which Mello and a number of UN personnel and other innocent civilians were killed in Baghdad.

He described Mello as one of the finest international civil servants and said he was well-known in Bangladesh where, as in so many other places, he had served. His commitment to the cause of human welfare will be forever recalled with fondness, he added.

"We grieve for him, and also for others who have lost their lives. We pray that the Almighty may rest their souls in eternal peace and grant their families the fortitude to bear their sad losses."

The foreign minister expressed Bangladesh's steadfast solidarity with UN Secretary General, and to his tasks.



PHOTO: PID

Information Minister Tariqul Islam presides over a joint meeting of advisory and steering committees of International Film Festival, Bangladesh, at PIB auditorium in the city yesterday.

Work sincerely to make CPA confce a success

Speaker tells officials

BSS, Dhaka

The second meeting of the Steering Committee formed for smooth holding of the 49th conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) was held here yesterday.

Speaker Muhammed Jamiruddin Sircar chaired the meeting that discussed various aspects of the preparation for the CPA conference

to be held in Dhaka from October 4-12, says a press release.

The Speaker said the progress of preparatory work of the conference was satisfactory. He asked the officials concerned to work sincerely for making the CPA conference a success.

A report of the Coordination Committee on the preparation was discussed in the meeting. Nine sub-committees comprising MPs and government officials have been working to make the CPA conference a success.

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Women and Children Affairs Minister Begum Khurshid Jahan Haque, Home Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret.) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Whips Mohammad Zahed Ali Chowdhury, Mohammad Fazlul Haque (Aspia), Syed Shaheedul Haque Jamal, Advocate Harun-Al-Rasheed, MP, Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul, MP, Shah Mohammad Ruhul Quddus, MP, and Begum Rawshan Ershad MP attended the meeting.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, Secretary of Sangsad Secretariat Kazi Raquibuddin Ahmed and high officials concerned were present.

Painting workshop for children

The Alliance Francaise is sponsoring a three-month painting workshop for children beginning in September, says a press release.

Children aged between seven and 16 are eligible for admission. The admission test will be held at the South Breeze School at 10:30am on August 29.

Artist Masuma Khan will conduct the workshop to be held in South Breeze School at Road No. 4 in Dhanmondi.

Interested persons have been requested to call artist Masuma Khan at 7114638 for further information.

'Eliminate discrimination against women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants at a workshop yesterday underscored the need for implementation of the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) in our country.

CEDAW known as the Bill of Rights for Women was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979.

The participants also called for the implementation of the constitutional rights of women to remove all forms of discrimination against them.

The workshop on 'Constitutional Rights of Women in Bangladesh and CEDAW Convention' was organised by Bangladesh Mohila Samity at its auditorium in the city.

Justice Nayeemuddin Ahemd attended the workshop as chief guest while Begum Ivy Rahman, president of Bangladesh Mohila

Samity, presided over it.

Justice Nayeemuddin said the government should take necessary steps to implement the CEDAW Convention as soon as possible.

About marriage and divorce of Muslim women, he observed that they are being exploited by misinterpreting the holy Quran.

Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, said there is no family law anywhere in the world that permits discrimination against women.

She suggested that the CEDAW Convention should be included in the text books of schools and colleges as this convention is a weapon to protect universal human rights.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam, vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

He said there is no difference

between the fundamental rights as enshrined in our constitution and the CEDAW Convention.

The journalists could play contributory role to establish women rights through their writings, he added.

Advocate Sahara Khatun, general secretary, and Begum Shamsunnahar Siddique, vice-president, of Bangladesh Mohila Samity also spoke.

DU hall students asked to remove ceiling fans

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Surya Sen Hall, Dhaka University, have been asked to remove the ceiling fans from their rooms by August 25.

The students, however, can use table fans instead, the hall authorities said in a notice issued on Monday.

The authorities also warned that students flouting the order would face suspension from the hall and cancellation of residentship.

They also mentioned in the notice that the ceiling fans lead to wastage of electricity, and university rules do not permit students to use ceiling fans, sources said.

Concerned at the dilapidated condition of the hall, the university authorities in a recent meeting took the decision to remove the ceiling fans, they added.

1924 more arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,924 people including 12 listed criminals during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered 18 firearms, six other weapons and 53 rounds of bullet and filed seven cases against six people under the Arms Act, says an official release.

