

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote to hold mass song festival in Oct

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will hold the first ever national mass song festival in the city in October this year, reports UNB. A festival committee was formed yesterday with Ramendu Majumder as its Convener and Golam Qudus as member secretary.

47 die of malaria in Bandarban in 6 months

Thirteen emergency medical teams with sufficient stocks of medicines are working round the clock to keep the malaria situation under control in Bandarban, bordering Myanmar and India. Sources in the Civil Surgeon's office said 80 per cent of the patients, admitted to health complexes of seven thanas of the district, were detected carrying the malaria germ. Dr Ahmed Kabir, Civil Surgeon of Bandarban, told BSS that malaria breaks out in the district every year from May to

September. He said 47 persons have died of malaria in six months till July this year and about 27,000 others have been attacked.

Since adequate measures have been taken by the Health Department, the number of deaths has reduced this year in comparison to the previous year. But treatment facilities are being hampered due to the shortage of physicians. "Out of seventy posts only 21 doctors were posted in seven thanas of the district," he added.

The World Health Organisation has identified ten bordering districts of the country including Bandarban, as high risk areas.

They urged the government to set up a malaria control hospital in the region on emergency basis to make the region malaria free.



Sacrificial meat from Saudi Arabia being transported on a truck marked 'emergency power supply' in the city yesterday. Nearly 540 metric tons of Saudi sacrificial meat arrived at Chittagong port on Saturday. — Star photo

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DG-11

French Embassy to celebrate golden jubilee of Cannes Film Festival

French Embassy has taken up a week-long programme to celebrate the golden jubilee of Cannes Film Festival from July 17, reports UNB. French Ambassador to Bangladesh Renee Yeyret said this when she made a courtesy call on State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed at his office yesterday. The envoy sought cooperation of the minister regarding the permission of film censorship and installation of a projector along with skilled technicians to operate 34-millimeter films during the festival, said an official handout. The minister assured the French Ambassador of all possible cooperation to make the festival a success. The best films of France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Denmark and Sweden will be screened during the festival.

Govt urged to withdraw VAT on import of computers

Computer dealers led by Bangladesh Computer Samity yesterday urged the government to withdraw the newly imposed Value Added Tax (VAT) on the import and sale of computers which has pushed up computer prices by nearly 16 per cent. "The 15.59 per cent increase of price caused by the imposition of VAT in the new budget adds to the previous tax structure for computers under which we pay 28.61 per cent tax," said Bangladesh Computer Samity President Mostafa Jabbar. "This means, we will now pay 44.20 per cent of tax in total. This is absurd. The government is practically discouraging the use of computers," he said in a press conference in the city. Mostafa Jabbar noted that the revenue of the government from the computer sector was only Tk 12 crore but the sector had a tremendous potential of becoming a gigantic foreign exchange earner. "Absurd taxation will only help a section of unscrupulous NBR employees to make undue benefits from the computer parts smugglers, but it will not increase the government revenue," he noted. He pointed out that leaders of the computer samity were trying to convince the authorities concerned of the consequences of such a price hike. "It's very sad that we had the impression from the government that taxes on computers will be cut," he said. Since 1993, Bangladesh Computer Samity has been seeking the implementation of a number of demands including total withdrawal of tax and VAT from computers for a limited period of time, to popularise the use of computers. The press conference was addressed, among others, by Secretary, Bangladesh Computer Society M Nuruzzaman, A H Chowdhury of ISP Forum and M H Rana of Bangladesh Computer Samity. Mostafa Jabbar said that some 35 countries had already signed the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) under which they would completely withdraw tax on information technology related products by 2000. "This will further push Bangladesh to a worse position. Computer sector is the only sector which can put Bangladesh in a better position in development race. Just imagine, software export earned India over one billion dollars last year. If the government helps this sector, we can also earn by such proportions," he noted. "Our demand is total withdrawal of VAT, surcharge, import duty and other taxes from computers for five years so that a larger number of people can afford it," Jabbar pointed out. "This will have a long term positive impact in the economy of the country."

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Youth training centre to be set up at N'ganj

A youth training centre spending Tk three crore would be set up at Narayanganj soon, reports UNB. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader said this yesterday while addressing a youth rally at Sonargaon Thana Council. A K M Shamim Osman MP and Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan MP were also present.

'Steps taken for development of silk industry'

State Minister for Jute and Textile A K Fazul Huq has said that the government has taken necessary measures for the development of traditional silk industry, reports BSS. Addressing a gathering of the officers and employees during his visit to Bangladesh Silk Factory at Rajshahi on Saturday, Huq said that the government had allocated Taka 7.07 crore so far for BMRE of Rajshahi and Thakurgaon silk factories. The silk factories of Rajshahi and Thakurgaon, he said, would overcome the existing problems following BMRE (Balancing Modernisation, Reconstruction and Expansion). Presided over by Chairman of Bangladesh Silk Board Shaiful Islam, the function was addressed, among others, by president of CBA Rajshahi Silk Factory Abu Selim and its general secretary Nurul Islam. Earlier, the state minister visited the Kaderia Siddikia Shishu Sadan at Bailanpur in Pabna.

Two killed in separate incidents in Khulna

KHULNA, July 6: Two people, one of them a minor boy, were killed and eight others injured in three different incidents in the district today (Sunday), reports UNB. Police said Nazrul Islam, a muhuri of the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, was stabbed by unknown assailants during an altercation between two lawyers in the court premises. As Islam tried to resist the lawyers some unidentified miscreants came forward and stabbed him repeatedly. Islam, an inhabitant of Rupsha thana, succumbed to his injuries on way to Sadar Hospital. In a traffic mishap on Khulna-Jessore highway near Fultala Bazar area, one Milon (8) died on the spot and three others were injured as a speeding truck hit a school van in the afternoon. The injured, identified as Tabassum (9), Rashed (7) and Rezaul (10), were hospitalised. In Terokhada thana, five people suffered bullet wounds during a feud over distribution of wheat under Food For Education Programme at Mozampur Uttar Primary School. The injured were identified as Hanif, Ansar, Litu, Asgar and Atahar.

What's on today....

- DCC Employees Union:** The installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Dhaka City Corporation Karmachari Sangsad will be held. Venue: Nagar Bhaban premises. Time: 12-01 noon. Chief guest: Local Government, Rural Development and Corporations Minister Zillur Rahman.
- British film session:** Chalachitram Film Society and the British Council Dhaka have jointly arranged British Film Session. On the first day of the 4-day long film session the film 'Quartel' will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of the British Council, 5, Fuller Road. Time: 5-30 pm.
- BIBM:** The Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) will hold a one-day seminar on 'Performance Planning System in Bank'. Venue: BIBM Seminar Hall. Time: 9-30 am. Chief guest: Dr Mohammad Sohrab Uddin Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank.
- Rotary Club of Gulshan:** The 22nd installation meeting of the office bearers of the club for 1997-98 will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7:00 pm. Chief guest: Justice M A Rouf, judge of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Weather

Day temperature may rise
Moderately heavy rain is likely at places over Chittagong division in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met office also forecast light rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind at most places over Barisal, Chittagong, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions. Slight rise in day temperature is likely throughout the country. In its outlook for subsequent two days weathermen forecast increase in rainfall activities and little change in the following five days. Meantime, Faridpur experienced the highest 34 mm rain in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Comilla had 33 mm shower, Cox's Bazar 29 and Mymensingh 23 mm shower during the period. Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest 23.6 degrees at Sandwip. The sun sets today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:17 am.



Zaker Party Mahila Front brought out a rally marking its first founding anniversary in the city yesterday. — Star photo

HERE and THERE

Bangabandhu Parishad
Bangabandhu Parishad has taken up an elaborate programme to observe the 22nd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, a parishad press release said yesterday, reports BSS. The programmes were taken up at a meeting of the parishad at its central office in the city yesterday with Golam Akbar Chowdhury in the chair. A three-day photo and book exhibition on Bangabandhu will be held at Bangla Academy premises from August 13. All units of the parishad at home and abroad will observe the day by holding discussions and other programmes. A discussion will be held on August 13 at the Engineers Institution under the auspices of the parishad. A mourning procession will be brought out from the Shaheed Uddyan to Bangabandhu Bhaban at 32 Dhanmondi on the day.

CIRDAP
The 18th founding anniversary of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) was observed yesterday, reports UNB. To mark the day, a reception was arranged at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city which was attended, among others, by State Minister for LGED and Cooperatives Syed Abul Hossain. Diplomats, representatives of UN bodies, and former and present staff of the centre were also present.

IUBAT
The course closing ceremony of the training course on Shipping in Export & Import organised by Center for Management Development (CMD) of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) was held on July 4. Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rob was the chief guest of the ceremony. It was presided over by Dr Alimullah Miyan, founder and vice chancellor, IUBAT, says a press release. In his presidential speech, Prof Miyan highlighted different activities of CMD. Rob in his speech mentioned that increased efficiency is a prerequisite for effective development as well as to face the global competition. He also noted that international trade is becoming more and more dependent on multimodal shipping for effective handling of international trades.

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