

86 arrested on various charges

Russian envoy meets Anwar

Police rounded up 86 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, nineteen were held on warrant and 31 others on charges of murder, dacoity, snatching, extortion and terrorists activities, said a DMP press release.

Russian Ambassador Eugeny P Ivanova called on Communications Minister Anwar Hossain at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and hoped that the friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the days to come.



Nearly five hundred activists of the Jatiya Party from Nakla, Sherpur, led by its leaders Zahid Hossain Bedsha and Khorshedur Rahman have joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The leaders presented a bouquet to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at her official residence yesterday.

PM lays foundation of nat'l cultural complex tomorrow

The government is going ahead with the plan to set up a national cultural complex in the capital with a projected cost of Taka 170 crore over a period of five years, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Shilpakala Academy, Kader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation of the national cultural complex at a function, to be held on the academy premises tomorrow.

As part of the complex, a number of facilities will be developed within the present Shilpakala Academy area to help cultivate art and cultural activities, State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader said in the city yesterday.

The facilities to be built in the Shilpakala Academy include national art gallery, national theatre, national music and dance centre and a modern auditorium.

Syed Yusuf Hossain, secretary in charge, Cultural Affairs Ministry, and Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General, Shilpakala Academy, among others, were present at the conference.

Kader said although foundation of a national theatre was laid in 1995 by the previous government, the progress of work is very slow. The present government wants to honour its pledges made to the people, he said adding, the first phase of the national theatre will be completed by June next year.

The minister said that at the directives of the Prime Minister, country's eminent artists and architects succeeded in presenting a master plan for the national cultural complex within a period of three months.

The national art gallery will be partly ready by November next year for holding art exhibitions from member countries of D-8. The first phase of the art

gallery is to be completed by June 1999 at a cost of Taka 21.67 crore, he said.

The national music and dance centres and national theatre will be constructed in phases in a manner so that when the first phase is over, it becomes functional, he added.

Besides facilities for art and culture, administration and auxiliary facilities like book, coffee and crafts shops will also be built within the academy premises.

Dwelling on the cultural complex, the minister said it would be a vast area covering Bangla Academy, Institute of Fine Arts, Public Library, National Museum, Independence Memorial within Suhrawardy Uddyan, Ramna Garden, Shishu Academy and Shilpakala Academy. He said to link up Shilpakala Academy with Ramna Garden and Suhrawardy Uddyan, two artistically designed overbridges will be built by the Dhaka City Corporation.

Replying to a question, Kader said the government has decided to provide opportunities to our own architects and artists to design and decorate these facilities of national pride.

Recruitment in army: People asked to be cautious against cheats

Recruitment in the army is being made through written, viva and medical examinations conducted by branch recruiting unit representatives, reports BSS.

An Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said a section of people or fake agents of army are cheating the people in various manner by assuring them of jobs in the army.

These fake agents even are issuing false appointment letters in exchange of money as a result of which people desirous of getting a job in the army are being cheated.

The ISPR press release cautioned the people to be alert against these cheats and requested them to inform the nearest branch recruiting unit of the army or military police in case any person other than the representative of the branch recruiting unit contact them for a job in the army.

JCD protests arrest of its activists

BNP's student wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, has condemned the government for, what it said, resorting to repressive measures on opposition leaders and workers, reports UNB.

JCD brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting arrest of party activists during Thursday's BNP-enforced nationwide hartal.

Supporters chanted slogans while leaders spoke, demanding release of the arrested leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations.

Addressing the rally at the DUCSU Bhaban, JCD leaders said the Awami League will not be able to keep the people and the BNP refrained from movement for the cause of the nation.

CBA leaders of BJMC call on Faezul

State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faizul Huq yesterday urged the CBA leaders to work unitedly to make the jute sector more profitable and dynamic, reports BSS.

He was talking to a delegation of newly elected central bargaining agent (CBA) of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) who called on him at his office.

Bangladesh will provide training to Bosnian army

Bangladesh will provide training to Bosnian Army as per its commitment to help the war-ravaged Balkan peninsula flourish as a Muslim state, foreign office sources said, reports UNB.

A contingent of 21 army personnel from Bosnia-Herzegovina is due to arrive in Dhaka shortly to receive 6 months' training from Bangladesh Military Academy under the OIC assistance-mobilisation programme.

Bangladesh, which resolutely supported the Bosnian Muslims, morally and materially, in fighting a 4-year Serb aggression, is one of the 17-member countries of OIC assistance-mobilisation group which held its 7th meeting in Sarajevo end of June.

A three-member delegation from Bangladesh, comprising Director General (IO) of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs M Gyasuddin, Bangladesh Ambassador to Rome Mohammad Zamir and a senior army official, attended the meeting.

Some 1,230 members of Bangladesh security forces took part in the peacekeeping operation under the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the Serb aggression which claimed about one million Muslims and rendered 10 million others homeless.

Bangladesh is providing assistance amounting to 25,000 US dollars to Bosnia-Herzegovina in its mass grave-exhumation programme. The amount will be given from the Prime Minister's Bosnian Solidarity Fund.

Besides, the country has been extending support to the war-torn country of the former Yugoslav Federation in its rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

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FM makes statement on Zionist act Release of objectionable posters condemned

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday strongly condemned the heinous Zionist act of releasing highly objectionable posters on the holy Quran and the holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) which has hurt the sentiments of the Muslims as well as the conscious people of the world, reports BSS.

Making a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad, he reiterated the government's stand against such deliberate act and urged all governments, countries, international and regional groups and parties and especially OIC to create pressure on Israel to stay away from this most heinous design.

"We think the release of such posters on the holy Quran and the Prophet (SM) was another conspiracy of the Zionists to divert the peace process in the Middle-East to another course," he said reiterating government's strong demand for giving punishment to those who were responsible for such heinous acts.

The foreign minister also mentioned that the establishment of the independent Palestine State with Jerusalem as the capital was the only solution to the present Middle-East crisis.

He said the release of such objectionable posters was part of the Zionist blueprint and the Bangladesh government had reacted sharply to such a heinous act on July 3.

"The enemies of Islam and the Almighty Allah have done it," he said adding that the

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, leaders of Bangladesh Awami League and the people of Bangladesh had already expressed their condemnation against such an act.

Abdus Samad Azad said the people of Palestine and their representatives felt that it was the evil design of the Benjamin Netanyahu government of Israel.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, K M Obaidur Rahman of BNP, Advocate Fazle Rabbi of JP and Delwar Hussain Saidee of Jamaat-e-Islami demanded adoption of a resolution in the House condemning the heinous act against Islam and the Prophet (SM). Minister for Post, Telecommunications, Housing and Works Mohammad Nasim also took the floor and condemned this Zionist act against Islam.

Sajeda tells workshop Plan taken up for development of the Sundarbans

KHULNA, July 6: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury today stressed the need for integrated programmes to protect and develop the Sundarbans mangrove forest, and for bio-diversity conservation there, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at a workshop on 'Bio-diversity in conservation in the Sundarbans', organised jointly by the Forest Department and Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the Zia Public Hall here.

The minister said the government has planned a massive development programme for the conservation and development of the Sundarbans in co-operation with local and foreign experts. She said laws suiting the present day need are being formulated for the protection of forestry resources, and a plan is under consideration to form forest workers' teams for protection and preservation of those resources.

The minister said the Sundarbans play a very important role in maintaining ecological balance, he environment and offering employment opportunities to a large number of people. She also said that there is a bright prospect of developing tourism there, which could earn huge amount of foreign exchange for the country.

She called for creating awareness among the people to plant trees not only for protection against environmental pollution but also for earning revenue as well as providing employment opportunities.

Presided over by Joint Secretary of the Forest Ministry K M Ehsanul Huq, the workshop was addressed, among others, by Anuphol, ADB representative, Chief Conservator of Forest A Z M Shamsul Huda and Khulna Divisional Commissioner S M Shamsul Alam.

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