



Bangladesh Computer Operator Council (BCOC) brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday on occasion of 'Computer Revolution Day' '99.'

— Star photo

News

President, PM greet Estrada

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted President Joseph Ejercito Estrada of the Philippines on the occasion of its independence day, reports UNB.

In a message President Shahabuddin Ahmed said the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened and consolidated in future for mutual benefit.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message expressed her firm conviction that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Both the President and the Prime Minister wished good health, happiness and long life of Estrada and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Philippines.

Handicraft exhibition postponed

The national handicraft exhibition 1999 scheduled to be held on June 13-15 at a city hotel has been postponed due to countrywide shut down on June 13 called by the BNP led opposition parties, reports UNB.

The organisers announced the postponement of the three-day show at a press conference yesterday and they said the fresh date would be announced later.

Bangladesh Handicrafts Manufacturers and Exporters Association (Banglacrif) and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) have jointly organised the National Craft Show for the third time in the country.

Some 48 entrepreneurs are expected to participate in this year's show.

Explaining the reasons of the postponement, Banglacrif President SU Haider told the conference, "We need at least one day to attract the foreign buyers but the 'hartal' on the inaugural day will create a big problem for us and the participants."

He said the handicraft industries have been suffering from many problems, including scarcity of current capital, lack of appropriate training for the manpower and lack of necessary equipment and raw materials.

For smooth growth of the industry, he made a set of recommendations. These include setting up of a training institute for handicraft research and design, introduction of awards for eminent artists of this sector to encourage them, taking measures to set up a crafts village in Rajshahi division and development of Taka for maintaining competitive edge with the exporting countries.

Presided over by party president Manzurul Ahsan Khan, the first day's session was participated, among others, by Progangshu Chakrabarty, Abdul Matin, Badsha Biswas, Shishir Majumder, Hafiz Ahmed, Mohsin Reza, Mokhslesur Rahman and Ismail Hossain.

Obituary

CHITTAGONG, June 11: Begum Tahera Aziz, wife of late Awami League leader M A Aziz, died old age complications at a city clinic here this evening. She was 70, reports BSS.

Begum Tahera Aziz left behind seven sons, three daughters, a large number of relatives to mourn her death.

Nurul Zahed Manzu, a central leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, is her eldest son.

The first namaz-e-janaza of the deceased will be held at Lalbagh Maidan at 11 am tomorrow.

She will be buried at her Halishahar family graveyard following another janaza there after Zohr prayers.

PM condoles

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Begum Tahera Aziz, wife of renowned Awami League leader M A Aziz of Chittagong, a close associate of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman and a pioneer of liberation struggle, reports BSS.

In a condolence message the Prime Minister said Begum Tahera Aziz will be remembered for her social services.

Shamsul Anwar, former deputy chief conservator of forests, died of heart failure at a city clinic yesterday. He was 68, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Dhanmondi Eidgah Masjid after Jumma prayers and he was buried at the Banani graveyard.

Anwar is survived by a son and a daughter and a host of relatives. The qulukhwan will be held at House No 180, Road No 18 (Old) on Monday after Asr prayers.

RANGAMATI, June 11: Mushfiqur Rahman, joint secretary of Rangamati unit of Bangladesh Krishak League and senior member of Rangamati Abahani Krira Chakra, died of heart disease last night at Chittagong Holy Crescent Hospital. He was 50, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

RANGAMATI, June 11: Range Officer of Rangamati Sadar Forest Range and former chairman of Bangladesh Bono Karma Nirbahi Samity Waziduzzin died yesterday evening at his Chittagong residence. He was 51, says BSS.

He was suffering from diabetes.

He left behind his wife, four sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Waziduzzin's body was sent to his paternal house at Gazipur for burial.

Transport strike in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 11: The district Motor Sramik Union called for an indefinite transport strike in all inter-district routes from this evening demanding release of two of its members arrested in Rajshahi for their alleged involvement in a robbery.

The members of the Pabna Sramik union Jewell and Bipu were arrested by Boalia thana police in Rajshahi district last night following a robbery in a Rajshahi bound night coach at Gachpura near Pabna in the early hours today.

A group of armed men attacked the driver of the night coach, Shubhchandra, near Nagarbari and taken control of the bus, and robbed money and valuables from the passengers.

The armed group left the bus at Shwarkhola. The driver then drove it to Boalia thana and in front of the police about the incident.

The police seized the bus and arrested its conductor Jewell and helper Bipu.

The police later released the bus and handed it back to its owner.

President of Pabna district Motor Sramik Union Feroz Khan alleged that the night coaches in the district after fell victim of robbery, but police had never taken any action. He demanded safety of the night coaches in the district.

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