

Zia developed cultural facilities: President

BSS, Dhaka
President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said late President Ziaur Rahman developed the cultural facilities to promote art and culture.
"Art and culture is one of the main pillars of cultural heritage of a nation, and that is why Zia initiated the talent hunt programme in the cultural sector and Shilpakala Academies were built accordingly," he said at the opening ceremony of the 14th Young Artists' Art Exhibition here.
State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury, Director General of Shilpakala Academy Mostafa Zaman Abbasy also spoke on the occasion.
At least 171 artists displayed their 242 artistic works in painting, sculpture, graphics that reflect lifestyle, nature, humanity and sufferings of the common people in the country.
President said the exhibition, organised by the Shilpakala Acad-

emy, highlights styles and trends that young artists pursue, and the artistic and aesthetic standards they would like to set for themselves.
He said the works of young artists definitely display remarkable creative and innovative talents with difference, and this sort of exhibition will be treated as "Reflecting Glass" to them.
The president called upon the artists to come forward to curb social degradation and urged them to avail the facilities at the academy as much as possible.
Later the president distributed trophies to the winners of the exhibition. Tasaduk Hossain Dulu was adjudged the best young artist of the exhibition. "Best award in painting went to Safin Omar while Mohammad Mahamudul Hasan and M Anisuzzaman got the best award in sculpture and graphics respectively.
Mohammad Selim, Pradyut Kumar Majumder, Roosevelt Benjamin D'Rosario and Rajaul Islam Lovelu got the consolation awards.



President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury admires an art work at the 14th Young Artists' Painting Exhibition-2002 that began at the Shilpakala Academy Gallery in the city yesterday. The President inaugurated the 15-day-long exhibition.

Jute goods fetch Tk 920cr

BSS, Dhaka
The country earned a huge amount of foreign currency by exporting jute and jute goods during the current fiscal year. Jute Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
Replying to a question from BNP lawmaker M Akteruzzaman Mia (Dinajpur), he said the raw jute fetched Tk 302.24 crore till 1424 more held
BSS, Dhaka
Police arrested 1,424 people and recovered nine firearms along with seven other weapons during the last 24 hours countrywide operation ending at 6:00 am yesterday.
A Police headquarters press release said among the arrested persons were four identified criminals.
Police arrested 12 persons in connection with the arms recovery and eight cases were filed against them under Arms Act.

April and the jute goods Tk 920 crore till March this year.
Replying to another question from Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat (Chittagong), the Jute Minister said that out of 35 jute mills under the public sector, 30 mills are now in operation.
When Mohammad Ali Zinnah of BNP raised another question, Hafiz said there was a stock of some unsold jute goods in the BJMC's jute mills on May 31 this year.
"The jute sector in Bangladesh has been able to secure the top position in exporting jute goods to the world market," he said, adding that BJMC had already received orders for supplying a total 6,000 metric tons of jute goods.
Replying to a question from M Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu of BNP (Mymensingh), the minister said BJMC had already marketed environment-friendly jute carpet and shopping bags in Dhaka from December last year and in Khulna and Chittagong from March this year.

70pc work of Dhaka Flood Control Project complete

BSS, Dhaka
About 70 per cent work of the Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Project has been completed and the rest will be finished by August.
It was told at the 12th meeting of the steering committee of the project with Water Resources Minister Engineer L K Siddiqi in the chair.
Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), RAJUK and WASA have been implementing the project at a cost of Tk 823 crore with the main objectives of flood control, create drainage facility, maintain navigation of the Buriganga river, evict illegal structures and development of environment and communications.
Water Resources Minister asked the officials concerned to expedite the work of the project to protect the city from flood, water logging and traffic congestion.

6,457 abandoned houses in city, JS told

UNB, Dhaka
Housing and Works Minister Mirza Abbas told Parliament yesterday that the number of abandoned houses in the capital city is 6,457 and in Chittagong city is 549 (excluding sold and released).
Replying to Shahjahan Chowdhury (BNP-Chittagong), he said that of such houses in Dhaka City, 2014 were sold out at a cost of Tk 49.52 crore and in Chittagong, another 53 houses sold at Tk 4.25 crore.
Replying another question, the Minister said the government has a plan to construct flats for low-income people in all district towns as well as in capital Dhaka, the port city of Chittagong and the industrial city of Khulna.

The government has also plans to distribute plots among the low-income groups, he said adding that the implementation of projects in this regard was going on. Abbas said there are some notable housing projects, including 500 flats of 1000 sq feet at Lalmitia and Mohammadpur in the capital. These will be sold on hire-purchase basis to the government officials, he added.
In Mirpur area of the capital, some 600 flats would be sold on hire-purchase basis to all citizens, including officials and employees of government and autonomous bodies. A project of constructing 310 flats is going on in Chittagong and also in Kustia and Natore, the minister said.

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BCM council begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 11th national council of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree (BCM) began at the T S C auditorium of Dhaka University yesterday.
Noted dramatist Mamunur Rashid inaugurated the two-day council.
Comrade Bimal Biswas, comrade Muzahidul Islam Selim, Dr. Abul Barkat and comrade Noor Ahmed Bakul took part in the discussion.
Dipankar Saha Dipu presided over the council session.

Janaza of Dr Neelima today

UNB, Dhaka
Namaj-e-janaza of Dr Neelima Ibrahim will be held on the premises of Dhaka University Central Mosque after Juma prayers today.
Students, colleagues, relatives and admirers of Dr Neelima, former professor and chairperson of Bengali department of the university, have been requested to participate in the janaza.
Dr Neelima, also former Director General of Bangla Academy, died of old age ailment at a city clinic Tuesday evening.

Land Transport Policy under consideration

UNB, Dhaka
A Land Transport Policy incorporating road and rail transports has been prepared to modernise the communications network in the country.
The draft of the policy is under consideration of the government, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda told Mashiur Rahman Ranga of Jatiya Party in Parliament yesterday.
Replying to GM Fazlul Huq (BNP-Chandpur), the minister said at present, the government has no plan to commission electric train.
A feasibility study on commissioning of electric train in Dhaka-Chittagong section was conducted in the 80s, but it could not be implemented due to lack of fund.
He told the House that a feasibility study on electric train would be undertaken in the sixth five-year plan.
In reply to a question from Naser Hossain (Moulvibazar-3), he said the Planning Commission has approved a project to buy 18 new coaches equipped with air-conditioned cabin and chairs for Bangladesh Railway. But it is being delayed due to fund.
He told Prof. Joyanal Abedin (BNP) that a proposal (PCP) was sent to the Communications Ministry to buy 1000 buses, 500 dou-

ble-decker buses and 1000 trucks to increase the fleet of transports of BRIC. The proposal would now be sent to the Planning Commission, he said.
Moreover, efforts were underway to procure 100 Volvo double-decker buses and process is underway to buy TC buses at own financing of the state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) from Progati Industries Ltd., Huda said.

Thai ambassador meets Khoka

BSS, Dhaka
The ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, Phithak Phrombubha, yesterday called on Minister for Fisheries and Livestock and Mayor Dhaka City Corporation Sadek Hossain Khoka at the latter's secretariat office.
The ambassador stayed with the minister for sometime and discussed about poultry sector of Bangladesh. They also discussed matters relating to bilateral relations.
Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Dr Zahurul Karim was present on the occasion.

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