

Increase trade volume

President Iajuddin tells Italian envoy

UNB, Dhaka
 The newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Pietro Ballero presented his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.
 Welcoming the ambassador, President Iajuddin expressed his satisfaction at the existing very good relation between Bangladesh and Italy and said trade volume between the two countries has been increased significantly in recent years. And there is still ample scope for further increasing trade in various sectors, he said.
 He said Bangladesh values Italy as a very important development partner and both countries would cooperate each other for welfare of their peoples.
 Iajuddin stressed much on the cooperation in the field of science and technology and initiating linkage programmes for university teachers of both the countries. He also lauded the Italian government's decision to recruit manpower from Bangladesh.
 The newly appointed Ambassador expressed his satisfaction at the existing friendly relations between the two countries and said trade relations would be improved and diversified in the coming days.
 The ambassador was given guard of honour by the President's Guard of Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard.



The National Front of Teachers and Employees forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press for its eight-point demand.

PSA withdraws siege at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Progressive Students' Alliance (PSA) has finally withdrawn its indefinite siege programme on the Chittagong University (CU) campus after the vice-chancellor assured it of meeting its demand yesterday.
 The PSA, a conglomeration of three left-leaning student organisations, had been enforcing the action programme since June 26 in protest against the attack on its activists by the cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir.
 But at the request of the CU authorities, the PSA postponed their siege programme for one week from August 1.
 In a meeting yesterday, Vice-Chancellor Prof. AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury assured the PSA of taking stern action against those involved in the attack.
 However, the PSA leaders also warned that they will launch a new action programme if the VC does not take any action immediately, meeting sources said.
 They also demanded withdrawal of increased admission fee.
 President of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front Monjurul Islam Monju, President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Ripayan Barua, Proctor Mujibur Rahman and assistant proctors were present at the meeting.
 On June 25, Shibir cadres attacked the PSA activists at the station ground, leaving 15 injured.

Nandan extends seafood festival

Nandan, the largest super shop for daily needs, has extended its ongoing Seafood Festival till August 15, says a press release.
 From Cox's Bazar, Nandan brings a wide variety of seafood including salmon, tuna, octopus, cuttlefish, mackerel, mussel, pomphret and sea crab. The purchase of any seafood will entitle the customer to a 10 per cent reduction in the price.
 Apart from seafood, Nandan has 200 new arrivals of frozen items as well as 30 varieties of cheese and juice.

Seminar on 'IT for the Disabled' in Ctg today

CU CORRESPONDENT
 A daylong seminar on "IT for the disabled" will be held at the local Shipakala academy auditorium in the port city at 5pm today.
 The Unit Theatre for Social Action (UTSA) will arrange the seminar. Bhaskar Bandopadhyaya, a disabled, will present the key-note paper. Director of Impact Foundation Bangladesh Limited Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury will be present as chief guest.

SASP condemns attack on lawyers in districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) yesterday condemned the attack on lawyers boycotting the courts in some districts of the country including Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi on August 6 allegedly by pro-government forces.
 In a statement, the SASP leaders alleged that the incident of attack on the lawyers took place at the instigation of some ministers.
 The SASP leaders thanked the lawyers across the country to make the court-boycott-programme a success.
 The signatories to the statement included SASP Convenor Barrister Amirul Islam, Joint convenor Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, member secretary Subroto Chowdhury and Advocate Sahara Khatun.

DAS forms human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ainjibi Samity (DAS) yesterday formed a human chain on the premises of Dhaka District Sessions Judge's Court and Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court as part of their on going movement to press home their six-point demand, says a press release.
 The statistics was revealed at a symposium on 'Update on TB management: role of Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) in TB control' held in Chittagong on Wednesday.
 Prof. Camilo C. Roa, Jr. of clinical medicine department of University of Philippines, presented the keynote paper at the symposium organised by the Chest and Heart Association (CHA) of Bangladesh and sponsored by Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited.
 State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam

'Seven lakh suffer from TB'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around seven lakh people have been suffering from tuberculosis (TB) and a TB patient dies every ten minutes in Bangladesh.
 And in every two minutes, one person is affected by the disease.
 The statistics was revealed at a symposium on 'Update on TB management: role of Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) in TB control' held in Chittagong on Wednesday.
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1386 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,386 people, including seven listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.
 During the drive, they also recovered five firearms, four other arms, 15 explosives and 20 bullets, and filed 10 cases against 12 people under the Arms Act.



The Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation organised a roundtable at the National Press Club yesterday to mark the World Breastfeeding Week-2003.

Powdered milk threat to breastfeeding

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Powdered milk is one of the threats to breastfeeding as it is being promoted as substitute to breast milk, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.
 The other threats are attractive feeding bottles, supplying free samples of powdered milk at hospitals, lack of arrangements for working mothers to breastfeed their babies at different organisations, said Prof. Nazmunahar, head of the paediatrics department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
 Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) organised the roundtable on 'Breastfeeding: Analysis of essential fields of care for newborns' at the Jatiya Press Club to mark the World Breastfeeding Week.
 Dr Uzma Syed, programme manager, Save the Children, USA, gave an overview of breastfeeding patterns across the world, including Bangladesh.
 According to a study report, about 85 per cent of newborns in the country are not breastfed within the first hour after their birth due to lack of consciousness and delay in delivery process.
 She said breastfeeding can protect a baby from respiratory infection in its first month.
 Prof. Rezaul Karim, a scientist and volunteer of the BBF, called for ensuring breastfeeding promotion as breast milk protects babies from various diseases as well as save huge foreign exchange.
 Among others, Prof. M Q K Talukder, chairperson of BBF, Prof. Hamidur Rahman, director, Institute of Child and Mother Health, and Shaheen Sultana, coordinator of BBF, also spoke.

DHAKA TODAY

- Jewellery exhibition**
 The inaugural ceremony of a three-day Binda Gold Maga Fashion Fair will be held with popular TV star Zahid Hassan and Sadia Islam Mou to inaugurate. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.
- AGM**
 The annual general meeting of DMC Batch K-24 Welfare Association will be held. Venue: Santoor Restaurant, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.30pm.
- Blood donation**
 Management Net organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Business Studies Bhaban, Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm.
- Meeting**
 A meeting of Lalmonirhat Zila Samity, Dhaka will be held. Venue: Institution of Engineers' auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.
- Mahfil**
 The weekly Ashke-e-Rasul (SM) mahfil will be held. Venue: Babe Rahmat of Dewanbagh Sharif. Time: 10.00am.
- DHAKA TOMORROW**
- Film show**
 Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Hot Chick' and 'The African Queen'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.
- Movie show**
 Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a film titled '19th April' directed by Rituparna Ghosh. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.
- French film show**
 The Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'La buche' directed by Daniel Thompson (1999). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.
- General meeting**
 A discussion on 'Lending rates on loans by bank and other financial institutions', organised by Business Enterprise Development Institute, will be held. Venue: Gulshan Club auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Day temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka
 Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6pm today.
 Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the time, Met Office said.
 Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 25.0 degree at Sylhet and Rangamati districts.
 The sun sets in the capital at 6:37pm today and rises at 5:31 am tomorrow.
 Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.6	28.0	70	63
Chittagong	33.6	26.8	69	67
Rajshahi	35.5	27.5	78	72
Khulna	34.6	27.4	72	70
Barisal	33.6	27.2	76	77
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	97	66

Dhaka, Ankara to enhance relations

BSS, Ankara

Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid yesterday called on Turkish Social Welfare Minister Guldal Aksit and held useful talks on ways of boosting bilateral ties.
 During the meeting, the two ministers also discussed ways and means to enhance commercial, economic and social welfare relations between Bangladesh and Turkey, a message received here from Turkey said.
 Mujahid briefed his Turkish counterpart on various steps and reform programmes undertaken by the four-party alliance government for overall political and socio-economic uplift of Bangladesh.
 They also emphasised the need for strengthening the existing bilateral relations by exchanging political and head of government level visits.
 The two ministers also agreed to raise trade volume between the two countries by holding regular consultations and discussions and exchanging more visits at government and private business and entrepreneur's level.
 They agreed to expand cooperation with each other in all international as well as regional fora including the United Nations and the OIC.
 Mujahid told Guldal Aksit that Bangladesh government has undertaken a number of programmes for welfare of the orphanage, disabled and handicapped people, empowerment of women, assistance for the homeless and street people, set up Juvenile Correction Centre, rehabilitation of distressed women and the drug addicted youths.

'Arrest real culprits'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation (BJSPSF) yesterday called for arresting real culprits during the on going joint drive in bus terminals across the country, says a press release.
 In a statement, the BJSPSF leaders also urged the authorities concerned not to harass the general transport workers.
 They however hailed the drive to free the bus terminals from hoodlums.

VC vows to save CU forest

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) Vice Chancellor Prof. AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury at the inaugural function of a tree plantation programme at the botanical garden here yesterday said he would save the forest resource of the university at any cost from the poachers.
 "We have to protect the forest resource unitedly to ensure a cool environment for the students as well as who living inside the campus," Prof Nuruddin said.
 Prof Dr. Mohammed Azizur Rahman, chairman of Botany department presided over the function. Garden in charge Prof MA Gafur, Assistant Conservator of Forest (North) Abul Mansur and Director of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of CU, Prof Dr. Mohammed Kamal Hossain were present.
 Later, the VC inaugurated the tree plantation programme releasing a sapling of Shal there.

Beheaded body recovered in Cox's Bazar

BSS, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the beheaded body of an unidentified youth from a shrimp farm at Berayerdia of Chokoria thana here yesterday.
 The body bore marks of blow with sharp weapons on his nose and face. Police suspected that the miscreants might have left the body in the roadside shrimp farm after slaughtering him.
 The body was sent to morgue for autopsy while police launched an investigation to find out the killers and their motive behind the murder.

Chehlum
 Chehlum of Yahyia Chowdhury Pintoo, the prominent Freedom Fighter and former Social Welfare Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of Bangladesh Awami League, will be held today at his village home at Paragram, Nawabganj under Dhaka Zila, says a press release.
 Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the Chehlum. Pintoo died of heart failure on June 30 at Mediaid Clinic in the city.



AL leader Sajeda Chowdhury addresses a Jubo Mohila League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday protesting filing of chargesheet against Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in frigate purchase case.

General meeting
 A discussion on 'Lending rates on loans by bank and other financial institutions', organised by Business Enterprise Development Institute, will be held. Venue: Gulshan Club auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.