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‘Govt working to flourish culture’  
PM unveils foundation stones of six projects

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government will take measures to establish the culture of Bangladesh in the global arena.

It will also pursue a move to enhance the culture in accordance with thoughts of the new generations so that they never forget the uniqueness of Bangladeshi culture, she said.

“As we are heading towards socio-economic advancement, we also have to march ahead culturally. We will take required measures as our culture can put a strong footing on the world stage,” Hasina said while laying the foundation stones of six development projects and inaugurating another.

She joined the event, organised by the cultural affairs ministry at the Bangladesh National Museum at Shahbagh, from the Gono Bhaban through a video conference.

The PM said her government has been working to incorporate technology for further improvement of the culture.

“The thoughts and beliefs of our children are ever-changing at the advent of newer technology. We have to improve our culture in accordance with their thoughts so they never forget the culture of Bangladesh,” she said.



Naim, a fifth grader from the capital's Mirpur area, bravely fights dengue at the Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. He was admitted to the hospital last Wednesday, a day after he showed symptoms of the viral infection. When this photojournalist asked how he was, Naim said he was feeling much better. He now wishes to go back to school and play with his friends. Yesterday, the country witnessed highest dengue deaths so far this year, with the infections claiming five lives.

Drive on to make Dhaka a mugging-free city  
Says DMP chief

UNB, Dhaka

The anti-mugging drive will continue until Dhaka is free from mugging, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruque yesterday.

“Police will do whatever is needed to free the capital from muggers, no matter how much work is needed,” he said, while talking to reporters after visiting Rakibul Hasan, an injured journalist of a private Television, at Pangu hospital in Dhaka.

A number of mugging incidents occurred during the Eid vacation in the capital and police are now on highest alert to arrest muggers, he added.

The law enforcers managed to arrest all the muggers involved in the police constable killing in Farmgate and they were sent to jail, said DMP chief.

Besides, two accused in a case filed for mugging Rakibul were also arrested, he said.

France seeks to boost naval ties with Bangladesh

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Chattogram

The French Navy, renowned for its size and formidable naval capabilities, has expressed a keen interest in collaborating with the Bangladesh Navy to uphold international law and ensure maritime security.

Rear Admiral Emmanuel Slaars, the chief of French joint forces in the Indian Ocean, conveyed this during an interview held aboard the French stealth Fregate Surcouf.

The ship, which embarked on its journey from France two months ago, made a stop at the Patenga Container Terminal in Chattogram after seven years.



We strongly believe that international law is very important and we are also ready to fight illegal trafficking of narcotics, weapons etc.

REAR ADMIRAL EMMANUEL SLAARS  
Chief of French joint forces in Indian Ocean

During its visit from July 2 to July 6, the vessel will engage in a joint exercise with the Bangladesh Navy on Thursday. A delegation comprising 170 officers and sailors is taking part in this goodwill visit, with Rear Admiral Slaars and French Ambassador Marie Masdupuy paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday.

During their visit, the officers and sailors of the French Navy ship had the opportunity to explore various naval installations and engage with officials in Bangladesh.

French Ambassador Marie Masdupuy emphasised that the ship's visit signifies France's political commitment to supporting Bangladesh and recognises the country's importance in the Indian Ocean region.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A man tries to jump over a puddle filled with sewerage water in Jurain's Kodomtoli area yesterday. Due to poor drainage system and a lack of cleaning activities, people of the area continue to suffer.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Dengue taking a dangerous turn

14 deaths recorded in first four days of July

HELEMUL ALAM

The dengue outbreak in Bangladesh has taken a worrisome turn as the number of cases and fatalities continue to rise, signaling an alarming trend this year. Yesterday, the country witnessed the highest number of dengue deaths this year, with five fatalities.

The total number of deaths in the first four days of July has already reached 14 whereas nine deaths were recorded in entire July last year.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reports 61 individuals have lost their lives to dengue so far this year. The surge in cases is evident as 678 new dengue patients were hospitalised within the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases to 9,871, with 2,787 cases originating from outside Dhaka.

The recent deaths of Bulet, a 38-year-old sweeper from Rangpur, and Ilma Jahan, an eleventh grader from Vigarunnisa School and College, have further highlighted the devastating impact of dengue.

In response, experts are urgently calling on the authorities to conduct extensive drives to identify and control the hotspots of Aedes mosquitoes, the carriers of the dengue virus.

**MORE FEMALE DEATHS**

The latest analysis conducted by the DGHS sheds light on the demographics of dengue-

related deaths in Bangladesh this year. Among the 50 deaths analysed, 62 percent were female. The age group most affected, accounting for 60.80 percent of the fatalities, was between 19 and 50 years old.

Besides, 80 percent of the deaths occurred within three days after the patients were admitted to the hospital.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, an associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, emphasised the importance of seeking medical attention promptly upon experiencing warning signs of dengue.

**SYMPTOMS**

The warning signs include severe stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, bleeding from the nose, gums, vomit, or stools, weakness, significant reduction in urine output, and a notable decrease in platelet counts.

Dr Ahsan stressed the need for immediate hospitalisation as dengue patients can rapidly progress to critical stages within 24-48 hours of displaying these symptoms.

He further advised that special attention should be given to pregnant women, infants, elderly individuals, and patients with underlying health conditions such as cancer, heart, kidney, or liver complications.

Additionally, Prof Dr Tahmina Shirin,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

The survey revealed that 20.04 percent of houses under the Dhaka North City Corporation and 15.47 percent of houses under the Dhaka South City Corporation were found to have Aedes mosquito larvae.

Tk 5 lakh fine for copyright breach

Bill placed at JS; Public Service (Amendment) Bill passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Copyright Bill 2023 was placed in parliament yesterday giving a penalty of Tk 5 lakh for publishing, serving or performing any work of others without being the owner of the copyright.

For the violation of copyright for film, the punishment is maximum five years of imprisonment and Tk 10 lakh as fine.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid placed the bill which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the cultural affairs ministry for further examination. The committee was given 30 days for submitting its report.

The proposed law will replace the Copyright Act 2000.

In the context of time, several definitions have been added and removed in the draft law.

Anonymous or pseudonymous work owner, database, public domain, monogram, producer, person, folk song, folk culture, editor, property rights – all these new definitions have been added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Private helipads, heliports get govt approval

Helicopters can land on rooftops; move to benefit medical evacuation  
RASHIDUL HASAN

In a bid to regulate helicopter services for corporate use and medical evacuation, as well as enhance air connectivity within the country, the government has made the decision to permit private operators to build heliports and helipads.

Private entities will now have the opportunity to construct these facilities and land helicopters there, subject to meeting specific conditions set by the government.



This policy allows for the establishment of heliports, which are similar to airports and cater to multiple helicopters for takeoff and landing. Additionally, elevated heliports or helipads, designated for the use of one helicopter at a time, may be situated on the roofs of tall buildings or other high structures.

The civil aviation ministry recently issued a gazette notification titled “Heliport and Elevated Heliport Establishment and Operation Policy, 2023,” which became effective on Monday.

This policy allows for the establishment of heliports, which are similar to airports and cater to multiple helicopters for takeoff and landing. Additionally, elevated heliports or helipads, designated for the use of one helicopter at a time, may be situated on the roofs of tall buildings or other high structures.

Presently, helicopters traveling outside Dhaka can only land at airports, stadiums, school grounds, or any open space that has obtained clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority and local administration. However, private operators will now have the opportunity to land helicopters on the rooftops of private premises equipped with helipads, or at their own designated heliports, following the necessary approvals and compliance with facility requirements.

A similar proposal was previously under consideration in 2019, but it faced obstacles due to concerns expressed by the home ministry at that time.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2