

Dhaka to extend hand in ensuring global peace, security

President tells outgoing US Ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mary Ann Peters made a farewell call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

President Iajuddin appreciated the US Ambassador in fostering

greater understanding and cooperation between Bangladesh and USA during her tenure.

He recalled the existing friendly relations between the two countries and hoped that the United States would continue to be a partner in Bangladesh's future endeavors.

The president said Bangladesh would always extend hand in ensuring global peace and security.

He pointed that Bangladesh and USA could widen the cooperation in the field of university education through organising exchange programmes for teachers and students of both the countries.

It will help exchange of ideas and knowledge, he said.

The outgoing US Ambassador thanked the president for receiving her and said she leaves Bangladesh with sweet memories.

She appreciated Bangladesh's efforts for social and economic development and said as a moderate Muslim country Bangladesh has earned appreciation from within and outside world.

She appreciated some achievements in Bangladesh which need to be projected outside effectively and hoped that US-Bangladesh friendship would grow further in coming days.

Secretary to the President Anisul Huq Chowdhury, MSP Major General Abdul Matin and Chief of Protocol Anwarul Alam were present on the occasion.

ALCWC meets today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at its Dhanmondi office at 10:30 am today to discuss political situation including huge ammunition haul in Bogra.

Party president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. General Secretary Abdul Jalil has requested ALCWC members to attend the meeting.



PM for arranging book fairs at nat'l, int'l levels

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has suggested for translating remarkable and resourceful Bengali books into English to portray Bangladesh's cultural and social heritage abroad.

She also called for arranging book fairs at national and international levels, particularly in London and New York where large number of Bangladeshi expatriates live.

Such fairs, she said, could be held in cooperation with Bangladesh embassies and publishers to boost the market of Bangladeshi books as well as to present the country's art, culture and literature abroad.

The prime minister made the suggestion when State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman presented her a book titled Commemorative Book on Book Year 2002 at her office yesterday.

Bangla Academy published the commemorative book containing 57 articles on the perspective of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's announcement of the year 2002 as a Book Year.

Khaleda said the objective of designating 2002 as Book Year was to build a habit of reading

books, create public awareness and develop the publishing industry. The year 2003 was announced as a Library Year to meet that objective, she added.

Recalling her appeal to the countrymen on Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bengali calendar, to present books to each other on various occasions, she said books could enrich the nation's literature and culture.

She said there is no alternative to education in the present knowledge-based society, and knowledge-based development can only take place through reading books and promoting education.

Selima apprised the prime minister that steps have been taken to keep a public library in the capital city open for long hours so that people can read books at their suitable and convenient time.

Meetings, book fairs and other programmes were being organised across the country on the occasion of the Library Year, she said.

Cultural Secretary Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury, Bangla Academy President Prof Wakil Ahmed and Bangla Academy DG Mansur Musa were present on the occasion.

Supreme Court Bar Association forms human chain on the High Court premises to press home its six-point demand.

Lawyers form human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday formed a human chain on the court premises to press for its six-point demand.

More than 100 lawyers led by Bar Association's senior vice-president Subrato Chowdhury participated in the human chain. During the programme the Bar leaders resented imposition of tax

on legal profession, intervention on judiciary and the Bar Council.

They vowed to continue agitation on the association premises every Wednesday till their demands were met.

Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, Abdul Baset Majumder, Ozaer Farood, Eusuf Hossian Humayun, Abdul Matin Khasru, and Bar Association secretary Md. Mahbub Ali addressed the rally.

1395 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,395 people including 13 listed criminals from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

They also recovered six firearms, 11 other weapons and 642 bullets.