



PHOTO: STAR

US Congressman Joseph Crowley called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday. US Ambassador Harry K Thomas was also present.

# Ramos calls for diversified economic cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the Philippines could enhance trade and economic cooperation for mutual benefit, former president of the Philippines Fidel V Ramos said yesterday.

"On my return home, I will submit a report within 24 hours to President Arroyo with strong recommendations to explore cooperation in trade, agriculture, fisheries and education," he told reporters at Zia International Airport prior to his departure for Manila.

As members of the Saarc and the Asean, Dhaka and Manila could also explore the 'gateway relationship' to bolster economic cooperation, Ramos said.

To strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries, the former president suggested people-to-people contact, particularly at the level of leadership and young people.

Ramos, who had meetings with government, opposition and business leaders during his five-day visit, said good governance is a must for development.

If needed, resources and skilled manpower can be imported, but not good governance, he said, adding that it must be developed in the country by its people.

Ramos, who negotiated the peace accord with separatist Moro Liberation Front in 1997, praised Bangladesh's contribution to make it success.

He also lauded the efforts of Bangladesh as a member of the four-nation OIC committee chaired by Malaysia for peace process with another splinter separatist group, called Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Shahta Zarab, and ambassadors of Thailand, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines, were present at the airport to see off Ramos.

## Criminals beat cops in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A gang of criminals beat two police constables who were on the lookout for a notorious criminal, Mohammad Shamim, at Reazuddin Bazaar in the city yesterday.

The two constables were on a police team that conducted a raid on Chaitanya Gali to nab Shamim, leader of the notorious 'Shamim Bahini' of Fatikchhari, and his accomplices at around 1.00pm.

But failing to arrest anybody, the team went back, leaving two plain-clothes constables, Monir and Mafiz, at a shop there.

Soon after, some cadres of 'Shamim Bahini' appeared in the shop posing as innocents and created a chaos to provoke a protest against the police move.

They also confined the two constables to the shop for some time and assaulted them, witnesses said.

On information, Kotwali police rushed to the scene and rescued the two.

"Shamim and Osman are the most notorious criminals of Fatikchhari. And Shamim is behind the most murders that took place in the upazila in recent time," said Additional SP Chowdhury Monzurul Kabir, who led the team during the raid.

# President tells police to be friends of people

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has expressed the hope that the police force would always be on their feet to perform their duties in protecting law and order.

"In a democratic system, the role of police is very important in ensuring discipline in public life and creating an enabling environment for national development," he said this while he was addressing a function arranged at Bangabhaban yesterday on the occasion of Police Week-2004 that began on Saturday.

Welcoming a group of officers from different units of the police force, the president reminded them that it was their duty to protect the rights of civilians and ensure security of their lives and property through proper application of the laws and regulations.

He urged them to motivate the civilians in participating in development activities, pointing out that proper law and order situation is one of the preconditions for continuous prosperity of the country.

Iajuddin Ahmed asked the members of the police force to be friends of the people and help the country to achieve development.

He also lauded the police force for their contributions to UN peacekeeping missions abroad.

The president further hoped that police would be more careful to give a patient hearing to neglected children, women and elderly people and help solve their

problems by taking immediate steps.

Referring to some facilities provided to the police by the government, he said the members of police should work hard to earn people's confidence in them.

He paid tributes to the policemen who sacrificed their lives during recent crackdown on criminals.

## Screening of 'Matir Moina' extended till Jan 16

Due to overwhelming response by the audience in Chittagong, the screening of Tareque Masud's acclaimed film 'Matir Moina' has been extended till January 16, says a press release.

The film is being shown at the local Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 11.00am, 4.00pm and

6.00pm daily.

Earlier, 'Matir Moina' had its Kolkata premiere at Gorky Sadan auditorium on January 9.

Many renowned personalities were present at the screening including Mrinal Sen who came to the stage after the show to express his admiration for the film.

## Bangladesh a tolerant society: Crowley

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Congressman Joseph Crowley was accorded a reception in the city yesterday in recognition of his contribution to promoting Bangladesh's causes in the US Congress.

The American Bangladesh Friendship Society organised the reception ceremony at a hotel, attended by ministers, diplomats, businesspeople and expatriate Bangladeshis.

Both Bangladesh and the United States of America have democracy and a thriving society, said Crowley, chairman of Congressional Caucus on Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh is a tolerant society. Bangladesh is a democracy," he said, adding that US-Bangladesh relationship needs to be maintained at all levels -- people to people and government to government.

Speaking as chief guest, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said Bangladesh is a liberal democracy and it believes in the rule of law, fundamental rights and human rights.

Describing the USA as an impor-

tant partner for economic development, Saifur said both Bangladesh and the USA have democracy, good governance, human rights and the rule of law.

He mentioned the US support for the country's development ventures, especially in the rural electrification.

Harry K Thomas, US ambassador in Bangladesh, said both Bangladesh and the USA have democracy and free press.

He said both Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late president Ziaur Rahman have worked for independence and democracy.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said Bangladesh and the USA share the same values of freedom of speech, human rights and the rule of law.

Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruk, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon, Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan, Editorial Board Chairman of Daily Ittefaq Barrister Mainul Hossain and Friendship Society President Golam Mehrab were also present.

Later, artistes performed folk dances at the reception ceremony.

## Japan gives 30m doses of polio vaccine



Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, third from left, receives polio vaccine kit from Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi, second from left, at the health ministry in the city yesterday. Unicef representative Morten Giersing, second from right, and State Minister for Health and Family Planning Mizanur Rahman Sinha, left, are also seen.

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday received 30 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) from Japan as part of continuing drive to help eradicate polio from the country by 2005.

Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi handed over the vaccine to Minister for Health and Family Welfare Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at a simple ceremony at the health ministry yesterday.

The handing over event filled in a positive and upbeat ambience provides impetus to the upcoming 12th National Immunisation Days (NID) scheduled for 18th January and 29th February.

Mosharraf said, Bangladesh has so far achieved considerable success through eleven NID programmes observed earlier and called for strengthening supplementary immunisation activities to obtain global certification for polio-free status.

Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Morten Giersing highlighted the joint efforts of the government and development partners that have successfully paved the way for eradication of polio from Bangladesh.

Japan, the largest donor for polio eradication in Bangladesh, has been contributing since 1996 some 44 million US dollar.

## Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of eminent lawyer and former minister M Mansur Ali will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil and discussion will be held at Sundarban Hotel in the city after Asr prayers.

Milad mahfil and quarkhwani will also be held at his residence, Kaliganj Rokeya Mansur Women's Degree College and at Shishu Sadan.

## Daniel Koraiya



Today is the first death anniversary of Daniel Koraiya, former president of Bangladesh Christian Association, says a press

release. He received gold medal for his contribution to cooperative movement.

The Christian Association has taken up various programmes to mark the day.

Special prayers and a memorial meeting will be held at Tejgaon Church Community Centre at 6.00pm today.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins and north-western part of the country during morning and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 28.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and the lowest 9.5 degree at Jessore and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 6:44am 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	25.0	14.8	81	65
Chittagong	27.0	13.8	80	62
Rajshahi	24.6	11.0	72	74
Khulna	25.3	12.0	82	--
Barisal	26.2	12.3	90	75
Sylhet	27.0	14.0	74	72
Cox's Bazar	28.2	15.2	77	78



A high-level delegation from Afghanistan pose with the guests at the inaugural ceremony of a week-long training workshop on adult education at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission on Sunday. Afghan Deputy Minister for Education Mohammad Sayed Mahmood Khaliq led the delegation. The Unesco, with the technical assistance of the Ahsania Mission, has taken up a programme on adult education as part of the reconstruction programme in Afghanistan.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Art exhibition**

The inaugural ceremony of a group art exhibition by reputed artists of the country will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. 128 art works by 87 artists will be on display. Venue: Saju Art Gallery, Gulshan-2. Time: 4.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 12 from 10.00am to 8.30pm daily except on Friday.

**Film show**

Academy Film Society will screen an Italian film titled 'The tree of wooden clogs'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

**Roundtable**

A roundtable on 'Forty years of film society movement in Bangladesh: Objectives and achievements', organised by 20 film societies of the country, will be held. Venue: Shaheed Muneer Chowdhury Conference Room, Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm.

**Discussion**

A discussion on 'Energy scenario of Bangladesh: Problems and critical issues', organised by Notundhara, a movement for change, will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

**Publication ceremony**

The publication ceremony of 'Seerat Bishwakoshi' will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohamad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Islamic Foundation auditorium, Baitul Mokarram. Time: 10.00am.

**Recitation**

A recitation competition of poems on peace, organised by the World Peace Organisation, will be held. Venue: Dhaka Bar Council auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

**Rotary meeting**

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

**Seminar**

A seminar on 'Towards a better livable Dhaka-50 mile formula and other aspects', organised by the civil and environmental engineering department of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP), will be held. Venue: UAP auditorium. Time: 11.00am.

### DHAKA TOMORROW

**Book fair**

The inaugural ceremony of 'International Book Fair 2004', organised by BSB Global Network, will be held with Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00am. The exhibition will remain open till January 16.

**Trade fair**

The opening ceremony of MIDAS Fair 2004, organised for women entrepreneurs by MIDAS Financing Limited, will be held. Venue: MIDAS and IBAIS premises, Road-27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm. The fair will remain open till January 16 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.