



PHOTO: PID

Newly appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Bangladesh Warmas Hasan Saputra presents his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Indonesia urged to import more Bangladeshi goods

UNB, Dhaka

President Ijuddin Ahmed yesterday called on Indonesia to increase imports from Bangladesh to reduce the trade gap between the two countries.

Mentioning the demand for Bangladeshi leather and leather goods, tea, medicine, ceramic, jute and jute goods in the world market, the president urged the Indonesian businessmen and investors to explore the potential of these sectors.

He made the suggestion when newly appointed ambassador of Indonesia Warmas Hasan Saputra presented credentials to him at Bangabhaban.

President Iajuddin expressed deep shock at the colossal loss of life and property in tsunami that hit Indonesia recently. "Bangladesh and its people are always with the people of Indonesia at this hard time," he said.

He also put emphasis on exchange of students and teachers between the two countries.

Ambassador Saputra said identical roles of the two countries over many international issues are strengthening relations between the two countries.

Earlier the ambassador was accorded a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment.

'Dhaka needs extra efforts to achieve MDG'

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is quite on track to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG), but it requires extra efforts in poverty alleviation and health sectors to reach the target by 2015.

"The achievement in education is good, but it needs extra efforts to alleviate poverty and bring down maternal mortality, which is of course a difficult task," Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador for MDG for Asia and the Pacific, told reporters yesterday.

Witoelar, who had a meeting with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, said Bangladesh would also require efforts to improve the conditions in slums for better environment. "In overall consideration, Bangladesh is on the right track," she observed.

Asked about the issues of governance, the UN Special Ambassador said most of the developing countries are facing this problem. In the Asia-Pacific region, some countries achieved the MDG while some are slower because of the governance problems.

To a question about the developed countries' 0.7 percent contribution of their GDP to help develop-

ing countries achieve the MDG, she said some European and Scandinavian countries fulfilled their contributions, but contribution of some others such as the USA, Japan and Australia is low.

Witoelar, however, said the developing countries should improve the capacity to use foreign aid effectively in the right sectors without overlapping with other sectors.

DU IT festival from March 1

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day information technology (IT) festival will begin at Computer Science and Engineering Department of Dhaka University (DU) on March 1.

The department has organised the festival to mark its 12 years.

The festival will feature programming contest, hardware and software fair, IT debate, IT quiz and seminars, said a DU press release.

Details regarding the festival will be available on the website www.itfest05.cse.udhaka.net.

Plan to set up more courts at district level

UNB, Dhaka

The government has a plan to increase the number of courts at district level for quick disposal of cases, parliament was told yesterday.

Replying to a question of Muhammad Giasuddin (BNP-Narayanganj), State Minister for Law Shajahan Omar said the government has already set up a tribunal in Naogaon and additional tribunals in Bogra, Rajshahi and Rangpur to deal with women and children repression cases.

He said the proposal for setting up similar tribunals in Sirajganj and Shariatpur districts is under process.

Replying to a supplementary from ASM Shahadat Hossain (Jamaat), the state minister said the government is committed to separating the judiciary from the executive.

"But there are some problems," which will be worked out, he said, adding that the government is sincere about the separation of judiciary.

New IO to probe Belal murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A new investigation officer (IO) was appointed on Sunday to probe into Journalist Shaikh Belal Uddin murder case.

Iqbal Hossain, newly promoted inspector who was the officer-in-charge (OC) of Khulna Police Station, would be assisted by Asaduzzaman Farazi, the first IO and SI of the same police station.

Assistant Commissioner Anisur

Rahman will monitor the progress of the investigation.

A senior police officer of Khulna range said all government intelligence agencies have been deployed to unearth the source of remote control bomb used to launch a attack on the press club killing a journalist.

"We hope to nab the godfather soon who planned the murder of Belal through hired agents", he said.

Meanwhile, the journalists, at a rally on the local press club premises yesterday, said any failure to arrest the killers of Belal would not be tolerated.

They also expressed their solidarity with the joint statement issued by 23 editors of national dailies under the banner of 'Forum to Protect Journalists' on Sunday.

The rally was followed by a mourning procession.