



Dr Mohammad Asim, newly appointed high commissioner of the Maldives to Bangladesh, presents his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Recruit skilled manpower from Bangladesh

President urges Maldives

DHAKA, Unb

President Iajuddin Ahmed stressed enhancing cooperation between Bangladesh and the Maldives in tourism and introducing direct air links between the two countries. He made the suggestions when Dr Mohammad Asim, newly appointed high commissioner of the Maldives to Bangladesh, presented his credentials to the president at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday. The president also mentioned that Bangladesh has a range of exportable items at competitive prices such as pharmaceuticals, jute and leather goods, ceramic and plastic products, and readymade garments.

He requested the high commissioner to explore the possibility of recruiting skilled manpower from Bangladesh, especially in the fields of medicine, engineering, teaching and ICT. The president conveyed through the envoy his greetings to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and renewed the invitation to him to attend the 13th Saarc Summit in November 2005 in Dhaka. Welcoming Dr Asim, the Colombo-based high commissioner, concurrently accredited to Bangladesh and Pakistan, Dr Iajuddin mentioned the cordial bilateral relations existing between the two countries and reiterated Bangladesh's determination to

further consolidate the ties. "Both the countries need to explore ways to build trade relations," the president said. The newly appointed high commissioner noted that some students of the Maldives study in Bangladesh and they want to send more. He appreciated the decision of Bangladesh to open its mission in Male, saying that the bilateral relations will be further strengthened through the activities. Earlier, the envoy was given guard of honour by the president's guard regiment at Bangabhaban. Foreign Secretary Hemaet Uddin and secretary to the president Abu Solaiman Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

Introduce new subjects to meet demand of job market

Speakers urge university authorities

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar have urged the university authorities to introduce new subjects in line with the demand of present job market. They said days of subject specialisation have ended as employers now expect that each and every job seeker should have knowledge on diversified areas. The seminar on 'Higher Education and Career Planning' was organised by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh in the city on Sunday. The speakers said nature of present job market has changed significantly.

Student majoring in one subject would have less scope in present job market, they added. Deputy General Manager of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd Mehboobur Rahman, Head of Human Resource of TM International (BD) Ltd Nurullah Mamun Chowdhury and Human Resource Manager of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) Sheikh Tasheen Islam spoke on different aspects of career planning of the students. Dean of School of Business of the university Prof Salahuddin Ahmed moderated the seminar while Pro-VC Dr Rafiqul Islam gave a vote of thanks.

Debate competition on MDGs begins today

DHAKA, Unb

An Inter-University Debate Competition 2005 on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) begins in the city's IDB Bhaban today marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Dhaka and the United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB), in cooperation with Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), organised the

debates on Bangladesh perspective of MDGs adopted in the UN Millennium Summit of 2000 in New York. Eight debating teams from Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), North South University, East West University, Stamford University, American International University of Bangladesh and Sir Salimullah Medical College will take part in the competition.



Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Projonma observes a token hunger strike at Muktagan in the city yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.



Anwari Kabir, principal of Little Jewels Nursery Infant And Junior School, presents a crest to Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk at a function at the National Museum in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the school.

Terrorism is the hot topic at Edinburgh's Fringe

REUTERS, Edinburgh, Scotland

In what promises to be the most political Edinburgh Fringe for decades, the world's largest and most anarchic arts festival is set to tackle terrorism head on after the London bombings. Over the next three weeks the Fringe will see 27,000 performances. "Everyone wants to talk about the war on terror," director Paul Gudin said. "This is the most politicized Fringe since the Seventies." The festival opens just weeks after last month's London train and bus attacks, which killed four suicide bombers and 52 other people, and a few days after al Qaeda's latest warning of more to come.

Comedians and performers will be eager to push the boundaries with plays about prisoner abuse in Iraq's Abu Ghraib jail, "Terrorist! The Musical" and an opera about a would-be suicide bomber. "But sensitivities are certainly more acute this year," Gudin told Reuters in an interview in the run-up to the launch of the Fringe on

Sunday. "One journalist asked me if shows should be cancelled because of terrorist references. Absolutely not. It is absolutely right that what is covered in newspapers and on television should be covered in the arts," he said. However, performers will have to tread a fine line now that Britain is in the front line of the war on terrorism. "They will have to think through their scripts and make their own judgments just as newspaper editors and TV producers do," Gudin said. **PACE YOURSELVES** His advice to Fringe goers is to pace themselves and be selective. To see every performance back-to-back at the 2005 Fringe would take five years, three months and 25 days.

Ninety musicals are being staged this year, the highest number ever. The subjects range from Michael Jackson's obsessive fans to the notorious serial killer the Yorkshire Ripper. Also on offer is "The Brighter Side of Alzheimer's."

As one critic put it in the Times newspaper: "This looks set to be the usual eclectic mix of talent, talk, sex, violence and plain rubbish." Quality control is never a top priority at the madcap Fringe, rowdy offshoot of the official high arts festival of classical music, ballet and theater. The Fringe, which runs until August 29, brings 70 million pounds a year into the economy of the Scottish capital, with 400,000 people buying more than 1.25 million tickets to its shows. The British even drop their traditional reserve. People talk to each other in theater and comedy club queues, comparing notes on the shows that become overnight hits or misses through word of mouth. "I love this connection between audience, performers and critics," Gudin said. "We are the Olympics of the arts -- this is a career-defining moment. It is a real meeting of the minds but with much more alcohol and very much less sleep."