

Govt firm to establish good governance

President tells EU Ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday appreciated the valuable development cooperation of European Union (EU) in the field of health, human rights, democracy and economic reforms in Bangladesh.

He conveyed his appreciation when Ambassador and Head of Delegation of European Commission in Bangladesh Esko Kentschynskyj made a farewell call on him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, Iajuddin reiterated the government's commitment to establish good governance and appraised the envoy of the country's success in such fields like micro-credit, education and empowerment of women.

He pointed out that EU countries are the main destination of exports from Bangladesh, accounting for about 56.57 per cent of its total export value.

The President requested the Ambassador to convey his regards to EC President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso.

Terming the EU-Bangladesh relations as excellent, Esko Kentschynskyj underscored the need for regional cooperation in South Asia.

The outgoing EU Ambassador wished development and prosperity of Bangladesh and its people.

President, PM greet Malaysian counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia felicitated their Malaysian counterparts on the occasion of the 48th National Day of the country.

Iajuddin, in a message to Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibne Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, expressed his confidence that the long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two countries would further widen and deepen in the days ahead.

Govt to help develop astrology

BSS, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said astrology is a human science and the government will provide all out support for its development.

He said this while he was addressing as the chief guest a function held to accord reception to the eminent personalities organised by the World Astrology Association at the National Press Club in the city.

Nationally renowned astrologer Prof Abdur Rob Hawlader chaired the function. Dr Anisuzzaman of the Philosophy Department of Dhaka University, former lawmakers Syeda Shahina Khan and Principal MA Rashid Khan, Islamic thinker Moulana Ruhul Amin Khan, Chief Editor and Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Gazul Hasan Khan, Advocate Nurul Haque Majumder, columnist Harunur Rashid, poet and lyricist Mohammad Abu Taleb and journalist Abul Khair spoke on the importance of astrology.

They said this branch of science needs to be flourished by including it in the academic curriculum.

Santosh Gupta (posthumously), Shaikh Siraj, Syeda Shahina Khan, Kabon Chowdhury, Moulana Ruhul Amin Khan, Gazul Hasan Khan, Harunur Rashid and Mohammad Abu Taleb were presented with the crests of the association.



PHOTO: STAR

The injured BCL activists at a medical centre in Chittagong yesterday.

BCL factions clash at CU, 30 injured

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University (CU) unit were injured, 15 of them critically, as rival factions of BCL clashed on Chittagong-Rangamati highway near the campus yesterday.

The injured later gave an ultimatum to the authorities to arrest the attackers within 24 hours and announced a two-day strike on the campus starting today.

The clash ensued in the afternoon between the supporters of former ward commissioner Mamunur Rashid Mamun and Awami League leader AJM Nasiruddin as a sequel to a previous feud. On Monday, Nasir's supporters stabbed Lelin, an activist of the other faction.

A city-bound bus from the campus and the university proctor's car were damaged during yesterday's clash.

Agency reports militant camps

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teacher of Boira Qwami Madrasa at Belkuchi in Sirajganj and a prime suspect of the August 17 country-wide bomb blasts and Ramna Batamul blast in 2001, from his Kandapara residence in the district on Monday soon after he had returned from his hideout. The police also seized some military uniform and documents from his house.

Mannan was among the 41 suspected militants arrested along with firearms from Cox's Bazar in 1994. He was then sentenced to life term but was later released on bail by the High Court. He had been hiding since then. Later, he joined the Boira Qwami Madrasa as a teacher.

Mannan admitted to police that his three accomplices—Mufti Md Shafi of Kishoreganj, Abdul Hye of Daudkandi in Comilla, and Abdul Aziz of Feni—were involved in the August 17 countrywide blasts.

Meanwhile, following information provided by detained Khagrachhari JMB Ameer Nasiruddin alias Arif, members of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) arrested Waliullah, a top JMB leader and one of the prime coordinators of the August 17 blasts, from Bashabo bazar in the capital yesterday afternoon.

A police source said Nasir carried out the bomb blasts in the hill

district after Waliullah had instructed him over mobile phone. Quoting Nasir the police said Nasir received a handsome amount of money from Waliullah for the assignment.

Following Nasir's statement police also arrested Ismail Hossain Jamaddar, a teacher of Khagrachhari Fazlul Karim Keraatul Qur'an Nurani Madrasa, from Khontakata village in Sharankhola upazila of Bagherhat on Monday night.

Believed to be a member of the bomb squad that blasted bombs in Khagrachhari on August 17, Ismail fled the district and shaved off his beard after the blasts.

Meanwhile, Khulna district police arrested five suspected JMB activists and August 17 bomb blasts suspects from Dakop and Batiaghata upazila on Monday night.

Four of them—Hurun-ur-Rashid, Shahidul Islam, Mahmud and Akhtaruzzaman—were arrested from Dakop and were taken on a four-day remand each yesterday. The other detainee, Humayun Kabir arrested from Batiaghata, was taken on a five-day remand.

BDNews from Joypurhat adds: Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four suspects in separate drives in the district on Monday night.

The arrestees are Harun-ur-Rashid, 65, of Uttar Moheshpur

village, Mizanur Rahman, 28, of Kumari Mahmudpur village, Mosharraf Hossain, 27, of Kadoa Koyrapara village, and Zahid Hossain, 27, of Nanahar village under Kalai upazila.

Of them, Harun is an active JMB member and a convict of a police-arms looting case and a clash between police and JMB members in 2003.

UNB from Kurigram reports: Three suspected JMB members were arrested from Nageshwari upazila Monday night on charges of their involvement in the August 17 bombings.

Police also recovered 13 controversial and banned books, including photographs of bombings, from the arrestees identified as Shamsul Huda, 48, Noor Mohammad, 22, and Hafez Md Habibur Rahman, 26.

Our Satkhira correspondent adds: Indian national and local JMB leader Gias Uddin, arrested on Monday, was placed on an eight-day remand yesterday.

JMB cadres Monwar Hossain Ujjal and Anisur Rahman Khokon were also sent on seven-day fresh remand on completion of their eight-day remand.

They were sent to the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka yesterday afternoon for further interrogation.