



PHOTO: STAR
Newly appointed Singaporean High Commissioner Verghese Mathews calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday.

Singaporean envoy calls on Hasina

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Newly appointed Singaporean High Commissioner Verghese Mathews called on Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and discussed economic cooperation and security issues of the region.

"The discussion focused on how to strengthen bilateral ties in the fields of water transport, economy and trade. Security matters also came up during the talks," said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the opposition leader.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Syed Abul Hossain MP, and former Ambassador Ziauddin were present at the meeting held at the AL president's Dhanmondi residence.

Street children's photography exhibition begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, six street children are going to exhibit their own photography works titled 'Visible' at the National Museum in the city tomorrow.

The exhibition organised by Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) and supported by Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) is aimed at sensitising people to the fact that street children can do creative works if they are given proper opportunity.

Australian High Commissioner H E Douglas Foscett will open the exhibition at 3:30pm.

Forty-five photographs taken by Saddam, Polly, Razu, Lovely, Tariqul and Milon, who got support and training from PSTC, will be put on display.

The photographs were recently exhibited in Western Australia as part of the internationally renowned Fremantle Festival, said Prof Milon Bikash Paul, executive director of PSTC, at a press conference.

He also said the Visible project aims to develop the communication skills and analytical capacity of the street children.

"We have a superficial idea about the street children and through this exhibition we will be able to learn the conditions and lifestyle of the street children," he added.

Melissa Hurd, project coordinator of Visible Photo Project (VPP), Faye Mohammad Mostak, director of PSTC Dhaka, Ara Jerejian, project coordinator of VPP, Kaniz Gofrani Korashi, advocacy officer of PSTC and the six children were present at the press conference.

The exhibition will continue till February 4.

Increase trade to make relation meaningful

PM urges Singaporean envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday gave importance on turning the existing excellent relations between Bangladesh and Singapore into meaningful ties through increasing trade and commerce.

She expressed the view when Singaporean High Commissioner to Bangladesh Verghese Mathews made a courtesy call on her at the PMO. The Singaporean envoy supported her view.

Khaleda said Bangladesh is now producing a number of world class products, including pharmaceuticals, ceramics and leather products.

She also urged the Asean country to invest in Bangladesh availing the investment facilities offered by her government.

Both of them stressed on organising a single country Bangladesh trade fair in Singapore to display Bangladeshi products for business promotion. They also laid importance on exchanging visits at various levels.

The Prime Minister proposed for imparting training to Bangladesh port officials at Singapore Port Institute. The envoy said he will discuss about it with the concerned authorities in

Singapore.

Verghese Mathews appreciated Bangladesh's success in various fields, particularly microcredit and women empowerment, saying the achievements have also been lauded at different regional and international forums.

Khaleda told the High Commissioner that late President Ziaur Rahman began the process of women empowerment through various pragmatic steps and activities.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan called for larger investment by Singapore in Bangladesh to offset the huge trade gap between the two countries.

He said this when Verghese Mathews met him at his office.

He said Bangladesh and Singapore are friendly countries and have commonalities on many regional and international issues.

The minister said more investment from Singapore and increased import of Bangladeshi products could be areas of cooperation to minimise the trade gap.

He appreciated Singapore's support for Bangladesh's ARF membership and hoped that bilateral relations between the two countries would be deepened in the days to come.

KIBRIA MURDER

UN probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria, wife of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, yesterday demanded United Nations' (UN) investigation into the Kibria murder case.

"We are now seeking UN's interference for a proper investigation into the case as the government investigation did not bring the real killers to justice," she said while addressing a human chain organised under the 'Blue for Peace' programme initiated by the Kibria family at Panthapath in the city.

The UN should come forward to carry out an investigation into the Kibria murder case considering that he served under the UN with the status of Under-Secretary-General, said Asma Kibria.

"The government is still reluctant to bring the real killers of Kibria into justice despite passing of almost one year since the incident," she alleged.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said lives of the general people including the lawmakers like Kibria are not safe under the present government.

Kibria's four sisters Safia Rahman, Fouzia Shahed, Ashrafi

Siddique and Sharifa Mosabbir, daughter-in-law Rina Sultana Kibria and other family members took part in the programme.

Wearing blue dresses, intellectuals and commoners also spontaneously joined the programme.

Kibria, an Awami League lawmaker, was killed in a grenade attack at Boisdyerbazar in Habiganj on January 27 of last year.

FEJB executives

BSS, Dhaka

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and Mofizur Rahman were re-elected unopposed chairman and general secretary of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) for 2006-2007 yesterday.

Other office-bearers are: Anwar Hosain Manju (vice-chairman), Hasan Hafiz (treasurer) and Saiful Alam (joint secretary).

Executive Committee members are: Nurul Huda, Badiul Alam, Geasuddin Ahmed, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Dr Abdul Hai Siddique, Abu Taher Khokon, Azizur Rahim Peu, Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, Arun Karmakar and Aditi Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Shikhhak Samity Oikya Parishad takes out a colourful procession from in front of the Education Bhaban in the city yesterday to mark the National Teachers' Day.

Extortionist beaten to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mob beat an alleged extortionist to death yesterday while his accomplices managed to escape.

Abdul Kader, 30, went to the railway market at Tejgunipara in the city accompanied by Zakir and Alal and demanded Tk 5,000 as toll.

Traders of the market beat him mercilessly. Later, police rescued Kader from the mob and sent him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries.

Liakat Ali, owner of the fridge repairing shop, filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station in this connection.

CPB observes Paltan Blast Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will observe 'Paltan Blast Killing Day' today.

On this day in 2001, a huge bomb was exploded in a CPB rally at Paltan maidan in the city. CPB and some other political as well as cultural organisations will pay tribute to the martyrs namely Himangshu, Hashem, Mazid, Mokter and Bipradash who were killed that day.

In the morning, they will lay wreaths on the temporary monument at Paltan.

A rally will be held at city's Mukhtangon at 3:00pm where CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim will address.

Reform EC for free, fair election

Speakers tell Nirmul Committee founding anniversary programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the 14-party combine and members of the civil society yesterday urged all to launch a tough agitation to reform the present controversial election commission (EC) for a free and fair poll in the next general election.

Impartial election is not possible under the much criticised EC where election commissioners have been appointed considering political affiliation, they said at a discussion organised by Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at the National Press Club to mark its 14th founding anniversary.

The speakers emphasised the need for unity against the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government to save the country and countrymen from the clutch of the defeated forces of 1971.

Paying tributes to Jahanara Imam who formed the Nirmul Committee

and launched a movement against the war criminals in 1992, they said a leader like her is very needed to rescue the country from the present crisis.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury said free and fair election could not be held without ousting the present election commissioners.

Awami League Presidium Member Abdur Razzak said the alliance government is staying in power through exploding bombs by militants.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu said the government has committed seven misdeeds including torture on minority, repression on opposition activists, politicisation of different sectors, bomb attack and grabbing election commission.

Nirmul Committee Vice-president Prof Muntasir Mamun, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Communist Party President Monjurul Ahsan Khan, Indigenous Leader Promad Mankin, Widow of a martyred intellectual Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury and journalist KG Mustafa also spoke.

NU exam dates changed

UNB, Dhaka

The National University (NU) has postponed all examinations scheduled for Sunday due to unavoidable circumstances.

These examinations will be held at 9:30 am on January 27. The examination of marketing, scheduled for tomorrow, will also be held on the day at the same time, said a NU press release.

However, the schedule of all other examinations under the university will remain unchanged, the release added.

CU classes suspended

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authorities suspended classes of all departments from tomorrow up to January 28 for admission tests.

However, classes of the departments under the Arts Faculty will be remain suspended till January 29, said the university sources yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR
Prof Milon Bikash Paul, executive director of PSTC, speaks at a press conference on street children's photography exhibition at the National Museum in the city yesterday.