

Butenis meets
Iftikhar

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis yesterday called on Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury and discussed bilateral and regional issues like general election in Bangladesh and next month's Saarc summit in India.

There was no official briefing on the meeting that lasted 30 minutes, but sources said matters related to the postponed election were among other issues that came up.

This was Butenis' first meeting with the Foreign Affairs Adviser after her return from Washington.

On March 15, a PFI report from Washington said that the Bush administration stated that there ought to be a timeline for election in Bangladesh to satisfy its people, although the US is not pushing for a specific time for the polls.

US participation in the 14th Saarc summit in New Delhi as Observer was discussed during the meeting, sources said.

Bangabandhu did not pardon
war criminals: AK Khandaker

Zia proclaimed independence in the evening of March 27, not on March 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did not pardon the war criminals but announced a general amnesty for those who opposed the Liberation War but did not commit any crimes, Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker, the deputy commander-in-chief of the Liberation War, said yesterday.

The war criminals must be tried in the country, he said at a seminar. AK Khandaker also said that Maj. Ziaur Rahman, on behalf of Bangabandhu, proclaimed independence in the evening of March 27, 1971, not on March 26.

Bangladesh University organised the seminar on 'Liberation War of Bangladesh' at its auditorium in the city yesterday. Students and teachers attended the seminar presided over by Vice-chancellor Quazi Azher Ali.

In reply to a question from the students, AK Khandaker said Bangabandhu did not surrender to the Pakistani army at the night of March 25. Bangabandhu was in his house at that time and the Pakistani army arrested him, he added.

Firearms seized, one arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized four foreign firearms and hundred rounds of bullets and arrested one in this connection in the

city's Mirpur area yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, members of Rab-4 arrested Qudusur Rahman Biplob, 22, from a cap factory in Mirpur Mazar Road area at around 10:40am and seized the firearms and ammunitions.

'No bird flu in
Ctg poultry
farms'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a seminar in the port city yesterday said that there is no point getting into a panic about bird flu.

They said no poultry farm in Chittagong has been identified as affected with avian influenza virus (bird flu) so far.

They were addressing a seminar on "Avian Influenza, public health and mass awareness" jointly organised by Chittagong Dairy and Poultry Farm Association and Greater Chittagong Poultry Farm Association at Chittagong Press Club auditorium.

Additional Divisional Commissioner (DC) of Chittagong Md Mohiuddin Ahmad was the chief guest at the seminar with Greater Chittagong Poultry Farm Association President Sirajul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

Mohiuddin said safety measures in city, district and divisional level have been taken to prevent the spread of the virus.

He said authorities in a meeting with the leaders of poultry farm and hatchery owners' association and other government officials on March 27 decided to prohibit import of chicks from other districts of the country in the port city until the virus is banished from the country.

Poultry Farm Association leaders urged the authorities concerned to fix the price of chicks so that the chick producers of the district cannot raise the price during this time.

Prof Paritosh Kumar Bishwas of Veterinary University presented a slide display on avian virus and preventive measures at the seminar.

Deputy Director of District Livestock Office Md Abdul Latif, Acting Vice Chancellor (VC) of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Science University Prof AKM Saifuddin, District Livestock Officer Fazlul Hoque Khan, Assistant Commissioner (AC) (Kotwali) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Abu Baker Siddique, General Secretary of Chittagong Dairy and Poultry Farm Association Shahedul Alam Quadery also addressed.



Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) demolishes the illegal structures in the car parking area of Jahanara Garden at Green Road in the city yesterday.



Artists of Bhabna perform Tagore's Bhanushingher Padabali on the first day of the three-day Dance Festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. Shadhona and UNESCO organised the festival.

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