

## MARINA CALLS ON PRESIDENT, CHIEF ADVISER Bangladesh-Malaysia experience sharing to prevent AIDS stressed

UNB, Dhaka

Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir yesterday called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Praising Marina's contributions for the development of woman and children, the president apprised her of the government's different programmes targeting women and children including free education for

girls up to class XII.

He said Bangladesh has achieved enormous success in bringing gender parity in the country's primary schools.

Iajuddin also said the micro-credit programme, run by different non-government organisations including Grameen Bank of Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus helped many poor women to become self-reliant.

Marina, daughter of former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad, expressed her deep gratitude to the president for giving her the opportunity to meet with him.

**MEETS FAKHRUDDIN**  
Meanwhile, Marina appreciated Bangladesh's awareness activities against HIV/AIDS and showed interest in experience sharing between Malaysia and Bangladesh to prevent the deadly disease.

Marina, member of the International Committee of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS, made the remarks in course of discussion when she paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday.

Responding to her, the CA said, "The government would be happy to cooperate if Bangladesh can share its experiences in any field with Malaysia."

He said Bangladesh has identified HIV/AIDS before it becomes a problem and is doing a lot of activities to build up mass awareness about the disease.

As Marina apprised him of social and religious leaders' involvement in her country in public-awareness activity about HIV/AIDS, Fakhruddin said religious and social leaders in Bangladesh are also involved in awareness campaigns on many social issues like birth control and HIV/AIDS.

He noted that Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in social sector, including women empowerment, gender parity and reduction of infant mortality.

As Marina requested the CA to look into Bangladesh's National Committee on HIV/AIDS, Fakhruddin said Bangladesh has identified HIV/AIDS as problem and the government would do whatever necessary for activating the National Committee on HIV/AIDS.

CA's press secretary Syed Fahim Munaim who was present at the meeting briefed newsmen about the meeting.

Editor of Daily Amader Samoy Nayemul Islam accompanied Marina Mahathir at the meetings.



PHOTO: PID

Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday. CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, extreme left, was also present.



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## Sultan Festival ends in Narail

METRO DESK

The five-day Sultan Festival ended at the artist's hometown Masimdia in Narail on Wednesday, says a press release.

The inaugural ceremony of the festival, which was held to celebrate the 84th birth anniversary of legendary artist SM Sultan on August 10, was attended by Abdus Shakur Shah, director, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

Former secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye was present at the concluding ceremony as the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner of Narail Babul Haq, regional commercial head of banglalink and the director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts were present as special guests.

## Bomb hurled at Narail ASA office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A gang of unidentified miscreants hurled bomb at the Narail office of non-government organisation ASA on Wednesday night, police said.

Big bang of explosion rocked the entire Gobra Bazar area where the NGO office is located. People ran helter-skelter out of panic.

Police quoting ASA branch manager said an unidentified caller demanded toll over cellphone in May and he lodged a general diary with Narail Sadar Police Station in this regard.

AGD was filed today in connection with Wednesday night's bomb attack.



DHL Express Bangladesh & DHL Excel Supply Chain Bangladesh organised a tree plantation ceremony at Oishi Shishu Niketon, a primary school for underprivileged children, at Kalyanpur in the city yesterday as part of 'DHL Volunteer Day' programme. Some 50 DHL employees took part in the daylong volunteering programme.



A child performs at a cultural programme during the five-day Sultan Festival that ended at the artist's hometown Masimdia in Narail on Wednesday. The event was sponsored by banglalink.

## Symbolic hanging of war criminals, Bangabandhu killers staged at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) students yesterday demanded immediate steps to bring the war criminals to book and staged a symbolic hanging of the killers of Bangabandhu and war killers, terming them mass enemies of the nation.

Some 500 students under the

banner of Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan, a platform of children of freedom fighters, gathered on the central library premises and staged the symbolic hanging amid slogans against war criminals who committed heinous crimes during the liberation war in 1971.

The students also erected a hanging platform with two students standing on it -- one was Bangabandhu's killer and another was war criminal.

Former vice chancellor of RU Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, freedom fighter Prof Moly Kumar Bhowmik and RU freedom fighters' commander Abul Kalam Azad jointly hanged the two students wearing black masks and tying two ropes around their necks.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) RU unit yesterday reiterated its demand for immediate execution of the High Court verdict on Bangabandhu murder case.

To press home their demand, around 200 BCL leaders and activists took out a procession wearing black badges from in front of the central library that paraded different streets on the campus and held a rally.

The leaders also demanded permanent release of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and immediate release of other detained AL leaders.

## Efforts on to foster ties in health, education, trade sectors

Says Pak high commissioner

METRO DESK

A flag hoisting ceremony was held yesterday at the chancery of Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka on the occasion of the 62nd Independence Day of Pakistan, says a press release.

The programme was attended by members of the Pakistan community in Bangladesh and members of the high commission.

Messages of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion.

Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Babar, in his message, said efforts have been made by the high

commission for better relationship between the two countries in health, education and trade sectors.

These are the encouraging trends that are moving the relationship between the two countries in a new direction for the mutual benefits of the peoples of both the countries, he added.

He said, "As we are celebrating our 62nd Independence Day, I invite the people of Bangladesh to join us in bringing peace, stability and economic progress to our region for the common benefits of our peoples."

Later, the high commissioner hoisted the flag at the chancery.

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