

PM confident of Chinese support in nation-building

UNB, Dhaka

Praising China's spectacular economic growth, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia confidently said yesterday that her government would receive China's full support in building an economically secure and stable Bangladesh.

"We in Bangladesh admire the pro-people policies that the leaders of China have undertaken for the wellbeing of their people. We, too, are committed to the goal of achieving an economically secure and stable Bangladesh," she said.

Addressing a banquet hosted by her in honour of Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji at Hotel Sonargaon, Khaleda said her government places very special emphasis on Bangladesh's relations with "our true and trusted friend" China.

Lauding the Chinese premier for his visionary guidance that led the country's rapid socioeconomic development in the last few years she said, "Your (Rongji) visit to Bangladesh comes at a historic juncture not only for my country but also for Sino-Bangladesh relations."

The last visit by a Chinese premier to Dhaka was in 1989.

"It is an honour and a privilege to welcome the Premier of the State Council to visit Bangladesh after long 13 years," Khaleda Zia told the function, adding that his visit is significant in many ways, coming as it does so soon after the last October general election here.

Pointing out Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka to be inaugurated today Khaleda termed it a monument to the longstanding partnership in development.

She further mentioned that the five Friendship Bridges built over the rivers of Bangladesh are all tangible manifestations of the excellent bilateral and economic relations that exist between the two countries.

The PM appreciated China's development assistance to Bangladesh in a number of areas. Bangladesh and China have also cooperated for long scientific and cultural fields.

"We have also signed a cultural exchange protocol. The signing of the MOU this (Friday) afternoon for Chinese assistance in our development activities is another milestone in our relations," Khaleda observed at the banquet followed by a cultural programme.

"At the official talks this (Friday) afternoon, we discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, including further Chinese assistance for further projects in various fields," she told the function.

Ministers, diplomats, political leaders, high civil and military officials and other elite of the city attended the dinner.

Prime Minister Khaleda assured that her government would continue to work towards deeper and more meaningful relations between Bangladesh and China in the days ahead.

Recalling the history of fraternal bond between the two countries, Khaleda said the bilateral relations are marked by centuries of interactions when traders from China and Buddhist Monks from Bangladesh traveled to each other's country.

For decades, she said, "we have watched with admiration China's evolution as a resilient and hard-working nation. Today, China is an economic power because of its pragmatic and sound policies".

She appreciated China's endeavour to balance its water, energy, mineral and human resources throughout the vast country of over 1.25 billion people.



Pushela Uddjan Parishad organised a traditional 'Poush Mela' at Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday.

Monzurul didn't give in to physical handicap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is a tale of one of the rare sons of our soil who did not surrender to his physical handicap.

Blind since he was 18 months old, Monzurul Islam, son of a village worker, made his way into the Dhaka University and materialised his dream by completing masters in Political Science in June 2001.

But the fulfilment of his dream could yet to set him on the right track of his life as Monzurul is still a jobless person.

"I can teach other blind people if I am given a job in the government's Combined Blind Children Education Project" said Monzurul who approached The Daily Star on Thursday to seek attention of the people capable of helping him.

"I know there is job opportunity in this government project. But I don't have any connections to get a job there," he lamented adding that "I can also work with NGOs dealing with blind people. I can serve there as a trainer or a field motivator of blind persons."

Still residing in a room (Number 3/A) of Mohsin Hall of the Dhaka University, Monzurul was born in Parbatipur Upazilla of Dinajpur district in 1977. He lost his eyesight at the age of 18 months when he was attacked by measles.

In his dark world, Monzurul had a sympathiser. One of his relatives Syed Akkas Ali was an enlightened blind man. He took Monzurul to the Salvation Army Blind Boys Home in Mirpur of Dhaka in 1982 and got him admitted there for primary education.

Learning through Braille method, Monzurul then got admission into the Government High School for the Blind in Khulna. From there he passed the SSC examination in 1993. Then he took

admission in Khulna Abdul Malek Islamia College and passed the HSC examination in 1995.

After his admission into B.A.(Hons) Class in Political Science Department of the Dhaka University, Monzurul used a tape recorder to record the lectures of his teachers and studied them in his room listening again and again.

"Luckily, I had a scholarship from the Bangladesh National Society for the Blind to bear my educational expenses. My father was too poor to afford it", he said.



There are 45 blind students like Monzurul in the Dhaka University.

If any person or organisation wants to help Monzurul by providing him a suitable job, he can be contacted at his room in Mohsin Hall.

The Daily Star, moved by his long struggle for a decent living, urges the people to help persons like Monzurul in recognition of their sincere efforts and talents so that they can be our assets and not liabilities.

Launch campaign against cheating in exams: Osman

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruq yesterday urged the students, teachers and guardians to launch a joint campaign against cheating in public examinations, an official press release said here.

Addressing a discussion on quality education and movement against copying in examinations here yesterday, the minister also underlined the need for evaluation of genius in recruiting teachers, training for the teachers and changes of examination centres to stop adoption of unfair means in the examinations.

State Minister for Industries Prof Mohammad Rezaul Karim and BRTC Chairman Advocate Toimur Alam Khandkar spoke on the occasion.

The discussion was presided over by former MP Mia Abdullah Wazed.

Int'l confce on arsenic ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day international conference on "Arsenic Contamination in Groundwater: Media Strategy" will conclude at CIRDP auditorium today.

The World Water Forum of Journalists (WWEJ) in collaboration with Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) organised the conference.

Minister for Environment and Forest Shabbah Siraj will address the concluding session of the conference at 10 am today as chief guest while Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the conference yesterday.

Information Secretary Syed

Marghub Murshed and Environment and Forest Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed will be present as special guests. WWEJ secretary general and Chairman of FEJB Quamrul Islam Chowdhury will preside over the session.

Over 100 experts, journalists and officials from Japan, India, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh and several international and UN organisations are participating in the conference.

The conference will fix a media strategy to combat arsenic menace in groundwater in Bangladesh and other affected countries in the world.

Cancer Survivor's Forum formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Cancer Survivor's Forum was formed on Wednesday under the auspices of Oncology Club, a platform for all fighting cancer.

The founder members include renowned cricketer Minhazul Abedin Nannu, valiant freedom fighter Monzur Morshed and Hasina Rahman, wife of former health secretary late Fazlur Rahman.

The Forum will basically work with and for the cancer patients. Their first unified action will be visiting different hospitals with cancer treatment facilities. The Forum will also alleviate the problems the patients facing at the hospital.

Cancer survivors who gathered at Gulshan in the city said a few of the requirements of a cancer patient while taking treatment have access to a clean, sunny, cheerful environment, which is virtually non-existent in hospitals.

They said people go abroad for treatment mainly because of lack of proper environment and the country is losing its huge foreign currency through this channel.

The forum members will visit the National Institute of Cancer and Hospital in Mahakhali today.

Blood donation programme

UNB Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has called upon the healthy persons to donate blood voluntarily for transfusing of safe blood.

"Four crore people of the country can donate blood four times a year. But only 20 per cent blood of the total demand comes from the healthy persons," he said while addressing an eye and blood donation ceremony.

Ramna Probbati in collaboration with Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College Unit, organised the programme at Ramna Park yesterday. The function was addressed, among others, by AR Khan, Lt Col (Retd) M Anisuzzaman and Mostafizur Rahman.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the majority of the people, who sell blood for money, are unhealthy and drug-addicts. One of the main reasons for spreading the killer disease AIDS is transfusion of polluted blood, he added.

The Health Minister also called upon all to create awareness among the people and make the voluntary blood donation programme a success for a healthy nation.

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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

For the Sale of 20,000 MT (±2%) Third consignment U.S. ORIGIN CRUDE DEGUMMED SOYBEAN OIL (CDSO)

Ref. Sale Agreement No. CARE/MOF/416(b)/CDSO Sale-05/2002

The Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh entered into an agreement to receive a donation of 80,000 MTs Crude Degummed Soybean Oil in four separate consignments from the Government of the United States of America. The donation has been provided to the Government of Bangladesh from the U.S. Government to fund assistance programs designed to enhance economic growth and reduce poverty in Bangladesh. Therefore, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this agreement all commodities will be sold to bidder(s) for use and consumption in Bangladesh. Both Governments have agreed to employ CARE (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere) as their agent to conduct the sale of the Crude Degummed Soybean Oil (CDSO). Pursuant to the agreement between CARE and GOB, and their duties as an agent CARE Bangladesh is inviting sealed Bids in Bangladesh Taka from the bidders to purchase the third consignment of 20,000 (±2%) MTs of Crude Degummed Soybean Oil on C&F Chittagong basis.

Conditions of the sales:

- Shipment will be tentatively from March 01, 2002 to March 10, 2002 ex-USA Port(s).
- Quantity will be 20,000 (±2%) MT weights final at destination port. The goods will be shipped in Bulk Ocean Vessel(s) as per "FOSFA" guideline. Minimum bidding quantity must be 5,000 (±2%) MT.
- Payment will be made by Irrevocable Letter of Credit in local currency (Bangladesh Taka) at sight.
- Tender documents may be obtained by interested bidder or their authorized representative from Petty Cash Section of CARE-Bangladesh at the House No. 66, Road No. 7/A, (Ground floor) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka from 9.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. from January 14, 2002 to January 27, 2002.
- Bids are to be submitted in accordance with (Appendix A of the Tender documents) in a sealed envelope at House No. 61/A, Road No. 8/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka by 2:00 P.M. on January 28, 2002. The Bid will be opened on January 28, 2002 at 2:30 P.M. in presence of bidder(s), if any, at CARE Bangladesh office at House No. 63 (ground floor), Road No. 7/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.
- Responses to successful Bidders will be given by 5:00 P.M. on January 28, 2002 and sales agreement will be signed between successful bidder(s) and CARE-Bangladesh on the same day.
- All bids should be accompanied by earnest money equivalent to 2% of highest bidding amount in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft from any schedule Bank in favor of CARE-Bangladesh.
- The successful bidder(s) shall provide a performance guarantee equivalent to 5% (five percent) of the total C&F price of awarded quantity in Bangladesh Taka or in U.S. Dollars in the form of PO/DD/Bank Guarantee as instructed in the tender document in favor of CARE- Bangladesh by 3:00 P.M. on January 29, 2002.
- The successful bidder(s) Earnest Money will be held by CARE-Bangladesh until the Performance Guarantee and L/C are established, after which the Earnest Money will be returned to the buyer (s).
- An irrevocable Letter of Credit must be opened in favor of CARE- Bangladesh by successful bidder(s) for the entire Sale Agreement value no later than January 30, 2002.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Task Manager, Mission Monetization, Telephone No. 8114207, 9112315, Extension No. 137/ 317 at the above address.
- The Tender Committee reserves the right to accept/reject any or all of bids under the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The Tender Committee also reserves the right to waive any or all of the above conditions of sales without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Task Manager
Mission Monetization



Children flip through books at a stall at the Dhaka Book Fair at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

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