

## 'China major business partner of Bangladesh'

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui has said as a good friend China has become a major business partner of Bangladesh and the economic relations between the two countries expanded many times over the years.

Siddiqui said this on Tuesday as chief guest at a discussion on "How to Develop Sino-Bangla Industry, Trade and Commerce" on the occasion of the launching of Bangladesh-China Chamber of Industries, Trade and Commerce (BCCITC) at a local hotel in the city.

Chaired by BCCITC President Mohammad Zahirul Islam Tipu, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Commerce Barqat Ullah Bulu, Chinese Ambassador Hu Qian Wen, former secretary and Senior Advisor of BCCITC Hasinur Rahman, Chairman of Prime Bank M A Haque, Vice-Chairman of BCCITC Mokles Alam and former MP Alhaj Farhad Ahmed Kanchan.

Siddiqui said both Bangladesh and China were the members of Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Reyad Hossain Chowdhury, son of Shamsuddin Chowdhury will be held tomorrow at House No-12, Road No-99, Khawza

Baba House, Gulshan after Asr prayers, says a press release. A milad mahfil will be held on the occasion. Relatives, friends and admirers of the deceased have been requested to attend the function.

Reyad Hossain died of cardiac arrest in Atlanta, USA on April 12.

World Trade Organisation (WTO) and with the liberalisation of trade there are wide possibilities of business opportunities in many areas between the two countries.

As China has emerged as one of the strongest economies in Asia, a developing country like Bangladesh can learn from the example of China that has turned its huge population into human resources, he added.

Wishing success of the new trade body, Siddiqui put forward a six-point suggestion for the benefit of both the economies.

Barqat Ullah Bulu said China had made a substantial contribution to Bangladesh's economy. But there were still many possible and lucrative sectors in Bangladesh where China could invest, he added.

Assuring the new trade body of every possible help, Chinese Ambassador Hu Qian Wen said BCCITC had a very bright future and China was ready to help Bangladesh in developing its economy.

He said the two peoples would continue to enhance their good friendly relations in the years to come.

## 1271 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,271 people including two identified criminals from across the country in 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered seven firearms, 22 explosives and 10 rounds of bullet during the drive and filed five cases under Arms Act, an official handout said.

Of the arrested, Chowdhury Raihan of Khulna and Mohammad Selim of Dhaka are identified criminals.



Newly appointed Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic Baktybek Jolchubekovich Beshimov presented credentials to President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

## ADAB seminar in Ctg April 27

CU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on 'the role of mass media and civil society in democracy and good governance' will be held at the press club auditorium in the port city on April 27.

Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB) will organise the seminar.

The keynote paper at the seminar will be presented by Shahidullah Lipon, assistant professor of Journalism Department of Chittagong University (CU).

Monwara Begum, president of ADAB, Chittagong, will preside over the seminar.

## Plan to raise goat production

BSS, Dhaka

The government has taken a programme for small and medium farmers to alleviate poverty through raising goat production in the country.

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sadek Hossain Khoka told newsmen at a press conference at the Bangladesh Secretariat here yesterday.

He said goat farming can be treated as a potential sector which can contribute to the national economy through alleviating poverty, generating employment and meeting nutrition requirement of the people.

The minister said economic use of goat and expected growth in the sector did not take place in the past due to lack of proper planning resulting in degradation of the quality of our traditional species the Black Bengal Goat.

He said the country now has a goat population of two crore with small farmers rearing 93 per cent of them. The economic backbone of the small farmers could be strengthened through development of the sector, he added.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate a weeklong programme on "Poverty Alleviation through Increasing goat production" on the premises of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) at Savar on April 27.

Replying to a question the livestock minister said the farmers would get loan up to Tk 5000 from

the programme fund and Tk 30 to 40 thousand from the Krishi Bank without any collateral for rearing goats.

At the initial stage the programme would be launched in 50 upazilas under 25 districts, he said adding that the farmers could rear up the Black Bengal Goats in Stall Feeding system, if necessary, as grazing lands have been declining due to increase of population.

## Mahathero's body taken to his village home for cremation

BSS, Dhaka

The body of Sangharaja Jyotipal Mahathero, most venerable and religious head of Bangladeshi Buddhists, was taken to his village home at Baraigaon under Laksam upazila of Comilla district yesterday from the city's International Buddhist Monastery.

The body will be kept preserved into a casket at Kanakchoitta Bouddha Bihar till his ceremonial cremation with state honour.

Buddhist leaders from across the world are expected to attend the funeral, likely to be held six months later.

The former President of Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prochar Sangha and founder Chairman of Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP), Bangladesh centre Sangharaja Jyotipal Mahathero passed away on April 12 at a clinic in Mumbai, India, at the age of 91 due to old-age complications.

Shipping Minister Lt Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain went to the International Buddhist Monastery at Merul Badda to pay homage to the most reverend Mahathero. The minister placed wreaths on his body and signed the condolence book praying eternal peace of the departed soul.

## World Intellectual Property Day tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The 2nd World Intellectual Property Day will be observed tomorrow in the country as elsewhere in the globe with the theme -- "Encouraging Creativity."

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), a specialised agency of the United Nations, has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The objectives of the day are developing new technologies, preserving intellectual property and creating consciousness among the people about transfer of technology.

## Juranpur College Appointment of Moniruzzaman illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A division bench of the High Court yesterday declared the appointment of Mohammad Moniruzzaman as acting principal of Juranpur Adarsha Degree College by the Deputy Commissioner of Comilla illegal and without lawful authority.

The division bench comprising Justice Hamidul Huq and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana gave the verdict following a writ petition filed by the founder of the college, Major Gen (ret'd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan.

The court earlier issued a rule nisi upon the Deputy Commissioner of Comilla to show cause why the appointment will not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

Former Law Minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru appeared on behalf of the petitioner while senior advocate Khandokar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed moved on behalf of the plaintiff.

## Efforts underway to have BTV on satellite: Tariqul

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday said the government has already achieved successes in ensuring transparency in governance and freedom of the press.

The information minister said this when the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dr David Carter called on him at his office.

Tariqul said efforts are underway to have Bangladesh Television on the satellite and make news and programmes more objective.

He said the government gave top priority to human resources development for bringing comprehensive socio-economic progress.

Dr Carter said Bangladesh is now highly praised for freedom of the press and its print media enjoy

commendable independence. He said Bangladesh has a very good record as a moderate nation and the communal harmony that now exists here is commendable.

During the meeting, the information minister and the British envoy reviewed the present status of British cooperation to the mass media sector in Bangladesh.

They also explored potential areas of future cooperation, particularly in the field of human resources development and sharing of expertise. Political issues and the need for the opposition to join parliament also came up for discussion.

Information Secretary Mirza Tasadduq Hossain Beg and Head of the British High Commission Press and Public Affairs Kristian Sharpless were present.

## City Corporation polls

# A farce is going to be staged today: Hanif

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday called for eschewing the culture of parliament boycott as well as creating a congenial atmosphere for joining it.

He expected free and fair polls in the three city corporation elections today at a Meet the Reporters Programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city.

He, however, said "a farce" was going to be staged today.

Making an oblique reference to the four-party alliance candidate Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Hanif said he influenced the polls by contesting it as a minister.

He cited the example of former mayor Mirza Abbas, who resigned 30 days before the mayoral polls to contest it.

Independent candidates cannot stay at their homes. They are on the run, he said, adding many candidates went into hiding due to the issuance of detention in advance, he said.

He also alleged that the rule was not applied for identified criminals.

Hanif said he would go to cast his vote if the atmosphere was congenial.

He narrated his eight-year experience as the mayor of the city as well as the capital's problems and prospects.

DRU President Shahjahan Sardar and General Secretary Motaher Hossain Masum were

present in the function.

Hanif said: "It was to be proved by people through vote whether I was successful as a mayor. But I am not lucky enough."

"I make a four-point demand, including resignation of the chief election commissioner, withdrawal of cases and release of Awami League leaders and activists and end to harassment in the interest of free and fair polls," he said.

"I had the mental preparation to fight the election. But I was forced to keep myself away from the polls as not a single demand was met," he added.

He congratulated the new mayor in advance.

Hanif termed the metropolitan government as a demand of the time.

## BCU to celebrate silver jubilee

UNB, Dhaka

Left leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will celebrate its silver jubilee through elaborate programmes on April 26-27.

The programme will begin with placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at 7 am Friday. A reunion will be held at Dhaka University TSC cafeteria at 5 pm.

A grand rally will be brought out from Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus at 12 noon on Saturday, says a press release.

"I had made the demand in the interest of the people of Dhaka. I told it to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

He said the government of Sheikh Hasina formed a committee to consider his proposal.

The Dhaka City mayor said he also made such a proposal to present Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to strengthen the hand of the new mayor. People expect that their mayor resolve the problems of safe drinking water, power and traffic congestion, but no authority has been vested in the mayor to this end, he said, adding WASA, DESA, Housing and T&T were not under him.

He said despite all the shortcomings, he made ceaseless efforts to resolve the problems of the city.

Illustrating his successes, Hanif said holding tax was not raised, the city corporation office was not used to suppress political opponents and the corporation was kept above politics.

He said BNP, Jatiya Party and independent commissioners were made acting mayors when he went abroad.

Hanif said: "I never betrayed with the people of Dhaka. I delivered more than the pledges I made. Termining the present political situation in the country as polluted, he urged journalists to make contribution to unite the nation and help create a sound political atmosphere in the interest of the nation."

**Notice for Temporarily Suspension of Sheba Telecom Network**

This is for the kind information to all, that in accordance with the directive of the Government all mobile phone operations will be temporarily suspended on the occasion of the City Corporation Election 2002. Sheba Telecom network will remain suspended starting from 12:00 a.m. 25th April 2002 to 6:00 a.m. 26th April 2002. Sheba Telecom sincerely regrets any inconvenience this may cause to our valued customers.

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**Announcement For CityCell Users**

As per the directives received from the Government we will have to suspend our services on the occasion of the City Corporation Election 2002. Please note that the services will be suspended from 0000 hrs of 25th April 2002 to 0600 hrs of 26th April 2002.

We regret the inconvenience caused to our esteemed users. All services will be resumed promptly after the suspension period.

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