

Chinese envoy lauds reform in Bangladesh  
UNB, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador Zheng Quingdian yesterday praised the current reform activities in Bangladesh and said that his country is interested to increase investment here.

During a meeting with Industries, Textiles and Jute Adviser Geeteara Safiya Chowdhury at her office, the Chinese ambassador also expressed his country's interest in buying high quality jute from Bangladesh.

Zheng said that China has already invested in a number of sectors here, including telecommunications, energy and power and there are scopes to increase investment in Bangladesh.

China is also eager to invest in Bangladesh's textile sector because of its strong position, he said.

The adviser told the Chinese envoy about the favourable

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## PATRONISING MILITANTS

# Charges framed against Aminul, Dulu, Nadim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday framed charges against 30 persons including former BNP minister barrister Aminul Haq, ex-deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu and ex-lawmaker Nadim Mostafa in a case filed for aiding and abetting JMB militants.

Trial of the case, filed by torture victim Ayub Ali Pramanik on April 1, will begin on Sunday. The trial has to be completed within 45 days, as the case was included for trial under the emergency power rules.

The charges were framed in absence of barrister Aminul, Nadim and 14 other militants.

Sources said Aminul and Nadim went into hiding since the joint

forces launched countrywide drive against corrupt politicians.

Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu, surrendered on February 20, and 13 other accused JMB militants were present in the dock when Abu Saleh Sheikh M Jahirul Islam, additional district and sessions judge, was framing the charges.

Sub-inspector Shakil Uddin Ahmed of Bagmara Police Station submitted the charge sheet of the case on April 23 and said the JMB militants were well known as the members of Dulu Bahini (Dulu's group).

According to the plaintiff, he was kidnapped and taken to Rajakar Ramjan Kaya's house at Hamirkutia of Bagmara on April 7 in 2004. Armed militants led by killer Mostak's father Abdul Jalil Amin

asked him to pay Tk 1 lakh toll.

Ayub alleged that the militants tortured him until he agreed to pay the toll. He gave Tk 80,000 after his release.

During the torture, the militants named Aminul, Dulu and Nadim as their leaders, Ayub said.

The arrested militants are Jalil Amin, Moksed Ali, Abdur Rahim, Hanif Mondol, Nazrul Dorzi, Killer Mostak, Manzur Rahman, Murshid, Siddik Sonar, Mozahar Mondol and Sajmul.

The absconding militants are Mamun Muhami, Faruk Sonar, Nasir Mondol, Abdul Jabbar, Afsar Ali, Amjad Sonar, Salu, Khalil, Ezzak, Salam, Khetu, Mannan, Minhaz and Mansur.

## EXTORTION CASES

### Court accepts charge sheets against Hannan

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Speedy Trial Tribunal in Gazipur yesterday accepted the charge sheets against BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia's Adviser Brig Gen (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah in two extortion cases filed against him.

The tribunal has fixed July 1 for next hearing of the cases.

Investigation officers of the cases, Abul Basar and Riton Das, submitted the charge sheets on June 3.

Sub-inspector of Kapasia Police Station Ruhul Amin filed the case accusing 12 people including Hannan Shah on May 12.

Mainuddin of Salmania union filed the other case accusing nine people including Hannan Shah and his son Shah Reza Hannan.



PHOTO: STAR  
Water Development Board staff using an excavator clear blockage in a canal at Shanir Akhra in the capital yesterday to prevent the area from waterlogging.



An HSC examinee is offered flyers of coaching centres for admission to universities and medical colleges as he comes out of his examination centre at Government Science College at Tejgaon in the capital yesterday.

## Dhaka may send 2,000 peacekeepers to troubled Darfur

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

Bangladesh is likely to send around 2,000 troops to Sudan's troubled Darfur region as part of a joint United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) "hybrid force" that was accepted by the Sudanese government last week.

The possible deployment may come during a UN probe into reports of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of Congo "seriously mistreating" and killing detainees in retaliation for an ambush by the Congolese rebels that killed several Bangladeshi peacekeepers in 2005.

There are already 1,449 Bangladeshi peacekeepers in other regions of Sudan, out of the 9,677 Bangladeshi peacekeepers scattered around the world.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury yesterday confirmed to the press that Bangladesh is likely to participate in a "big way" in Darfur but skirted around questions on the UN probe in Congo saying if the

troops were found guilty, the government would take action.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he said Bangladesh's participation in the Darfur force is still in the preliminary stage but he hoped the UN would find Bangladesh's offer attractive. Iftekhar said nothing concrete has been put in place yet.

Last month Iftekhar met the Sudanese foreign minister at an Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Pakistan where they discussed possible Bangladeshi assistance in bringing peace to the war-torn country, sources in the foreign ministry said.

Although Bangladesh remains at the forefront of the proposed non-African contributors to at least 20,000 hybrid force bound for Darfur, Sudanese authorities have insisted that the majority of the troops must come from AU countries and the AU would control the force.

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## WEALTH

### Lobi, Munshi charged with false statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former BNP lawmakers Ali Asgar Lobi and Manzurul Ahsan Munshi in two separate cases filed for submitting false statements about their wealth.

The hearing on charge framing against former law minister barrister Moudud Ahmed in connection with a case filed for possession of 32 cans of beer and 16 bottles of other alcoholic beverages was held at a Dhaka court yesterday.

Besides, the ACC sought a ten-day remand to interrogate ntv Managing Director (MD) Enayetur Rahman in connection with a graft case.

#### LOBI CASE

The ACC yesterday pressed charges against detained Lobi and his wife Khushnud in connection with the Dhanmondi branch of Premier Bank and the Banani branch of Bank Al Falah.

Besides, the source of income of Tk 7 crore Lobi showed in the statement is also false.

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## New Palestinian cabinet led by Fayyad sworn in

Israel to work with new govt

AFP, Ramallah



Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas swore in his new cabinet on Sunday and immediately outlawed the rival Hamas movement's fighters after their bloody seizure of power in Gaza.

The moves further seal the Palestinian divide sparked by the Islamist movement's takeover of the impoverished territory, which is completely cut off from the outside world and fears of a humanitarian crisis are mounting.

Adding to the tensions, Israeli troops moved into the north of the Gaza Strip - now an Islamic enclave on the Jewish state's door-

step -- in what Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh said was a "preventative" action.

After swearing in the new emergency cabinet headed by prime minister Salam Fayyad, Abbas swiftly took aim at Hamas.

"The executive force and Hamas militias are declared outside the law for having carried out an armed rebellion against Palestinian legitimacy and its institutions," according to a decree issued by the Fatah leader.

"Anyone whose ties with these groups is proven will be punished in accordance with the laws under the state of emergency," it said.

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## BDR starts marketing vegetables Wednesday

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles will market fresh vegetables from Narsingdi through its 20 sales outlets in the capital as part of its ongoing effort to stabilise prices of essentials.

They would also distribute vegetables through four makeshift

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Prayer Timing		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 35 killed in Kabul bus bomb attack

AP, Kabul

A bomb ripped through a police bus in a crowded civilian area in Kabul yesterday, killing more than 35 people, officials said, in what appears to be the deadliest attack in the capital since the fall of the Taliban.

The police academy bus was carrying several police recruits when the bomb went off inside it, leaving several dead, said Zalmay Khan, the deputy police chief of Kabul province. At least 35 people were also wounded.

The thunderous explosion was heard throughout central Kabul at about 8:10 am local time.

Ali Shah Paktiwal, Kabul police director of criminal investigation, said more than 35 people were killed, including policemen and civilians. He said dozens were

wounded and sent to nearby hospitals.

Fazel Rahim, a doctor from a nearby hospital, said 18 dead bodies lay in the hospital courtyard, while more than 35 wounded were being treated inside the building.

"Most of the wounded are in serious condition," said Rahim, whose hands and white coat were covered in blood.

The roof of the bus was blown off and officers were pulling a number of bodies from the wreckage, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

The explosion twisted the bus into a charred skeleton, and bloody unidentifiable body parts littered the area as far as 30 yards from the bus.

Hundreds of police and investigators were inspecting the scene.

The explosion appears to have

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