

Chinese envoy lauds reform in Bangladesh

Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qiongdian 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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 Talukhdar 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 Talukhdar 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 Hamirkutsa 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 Muhuri, 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 Ripon 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.



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

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.

LOBICASE

The ACC yesterday pressed charges against detained Lobi and his wife Khushnud in connection with a case filed for submitting false statement about his wealth.

ACC Deputy Director (DD) Abu Sayeed, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the court of Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate (CMM) yesterday afternoon showing 34 people as prosecution witnesses.

On March 21, the ACC filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against Lobi as the lone accused. But the IO included his wife's name in the charge sheet as her involvement was found during the investigation.

ACC Deputy Director Shirin Parveen stated in the case that Lobi in his wealth statement mentioned that he owns wealth worth Tk 7 crore but an investigation has already revealed that he has wealth valued at Tk 22.25 crore.

In the FIR (first information report), the IO mentioned that Lobi has Tk 22.25 crore as FDR (fixed deposit receipt) in seven accounts 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.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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 movements 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, Israel troops moved into the north of the Gaza Strip -- now an Islamic enclave on the Jewish state's door-



Salam Fayyad

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.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

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		