

Political transition paves ways for stronger ties

Say Chinese leaders

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of the visiting high-profile Chinese delegation yesterday said the installation of new elected government in Bangladesh after a smooth political transition paved ways for enhanced Dhaka-Beijing ties as China was exploring means to ensure balance in its relations with South Asian nations.

"India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are three major nations in South Asia while China is the fourth one in the construct (composition)... the ties between these countries should not be conflicting in the interest of the region," president of the Chinese think tank Shanghai Institutes for International Studies SIIS Dr Yang Jiemian told at a roundtable on China-South Asia strategic relations.

Presenting a keynote paper at the conference, SIIS Director Zhao Gancheng said the peaceful political transition installing a democratic government in Bangladesh created enhanced scopes for expanding Dhaka-

Beijing ties, particularly in trade and economic arena.

"This (transition) will earn Bangladesh more supports from China," Gancheng said.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) staged the roundtable where BBC World Service's senior editorial adviser Dr S Mahmud Ali presented another keynote paper.

Admiral (ret'd) Ravi Bhora of India, Brig Gen Sajjad Rasul of Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka, former foreign secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, Maj Gen (ret'd) AMSA Amin and Nurul Safa of National Defence College, among others, took part in the discussion moderated by BIPSS President Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman.

Mahmud Ali said South Asia's future approach to China would be shaped by the region's internal dynamic, how regional actors relate to each other, as he described South Asia to be a "non-coherent subsystem" in Asia.

"Until now, they have operated on a

'reactive' basis towards China, built around two sets of dynamics -- firstly, India's relationship with its neighbours and secondly New Delhi's ties with China," he said.

Since these dynamics varied slightly over time, Ali said the South Asia-China framework proved to be a moving target while "because of the fragmentation within South Asia, there has been a divide between pro-China and anti-China camps."

SIIS President Yang Jiemian said since 1970s, China "modified" its position through a transition while the Chinese leadership now were trying to construct a "farer" and "just" international system with a "non-western" outlook and to "shift the centre of gravity from West to East."

Zhao said China was working very hard to strike a balance in its ties with South Asian neighbours particularly in view of the strains in ties between New Delhi and Islamabad.



Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam speaks at a roundtable styled "Expectations to the New Government" at the Prothom Alo conference room in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Govt to probe attack, killing of journos in past

Says info minister

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday called upon the journalists to work courageously for development of the country without any fear.

He said the government would take legal steps to investigate into the attacks on journalists and their killings in the past.

Journalists through their reporting can aware the government about problems in any field in the country so that the government could act rightly side by side they can identify the mistakes of the government through constructive criticism for the correction, he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a three-week course 'Foundation training for the journalists' organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) at its conference room.

Member of the parliament Mir Shakhawat Ali addressed the function as the special guest. Director General of PIB Mohammad Nazrul Islam presided over the function. Director of PIB Hosne Ara Akhter and senior trainer Waliur Rahman also spoke.

Describing journalists as the conscious of the nation, the information minister said, the mass media people are playing important role in building the nation.

'Reinstate terminated BSS, BTB journos'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded reinstatement of the journalists terminated from Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and Bangladesh Television during BNP rule.

In a joint statement, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Altaf Mahmud, and DUJ President Shah Alamgir and General Secretary Omar Faruk urged the authorities concerned to reinstate the journalists with immediate effect.

In the statement they also urged the government to salvage the government news agency from past mismanagement, corruption and anomalies. They also demanded reinstatement of the terminated journalists from Bangladesh Television.

'Govt to develop industrial sector'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will develop the industrial sector with a view to elevating Bangladesh to the status of a middle-income country by 2021, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said yesterday.

To achieve this goal, initiatives will be taken to ensure rapid industrialisation in Chittagong as per directions of the prime minister, he said at an award giving ceremony and Mezban organised by the Chittagong Samity-Dhaka at Dhanmondi Mohila Women's Sports Complex in the capital.

The minister also said that

the government has already reduced the prices of fertilisers as per election pledges and would take steps to fulfil other election pledges gradually.

He also called on all to make concerted efforts to build a prosperous Bangladesh.

Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar and Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury also spoke at the programme presided over by President of Chittagong Samity Md Jahangir Alam Khan.

Five eminent personalities were awarded at the programme.

2 women commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives committed suicide -- one by taking poison and the other by hanging herself -- in the city's Kotwali and Motijheel areas yesterday and on Friday night.

The deceased were identified as Poly Begum, 24, wife of Humayun Kabir, of Agasadek Road in Kotwali Police Station and the other was Eri Akter, 22, wife of Sumon, of Santibagh.

Police took the bodies to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies yesterday.

Mohammad Aslam, brother of the siblings Poly and Moly at DMC Morgue said they took poison at around 11:00pm on Friday after a feud between the two sisters over the extramarital affairs centring Poly's husband.

Family members said Moly used to go to her sister's house and developed a relation with

her brother-in-law. Both the sisters took poison when Poly's husband was not at the house.

Coming back to the flat, Poly's husband rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Poly died at 2:30am and Moly was undergoing treatment there.

Meanwhile, Eri committed suicide by hanging herself with a scarf from a ceiling fan at around 8:30pm on Friday at her house.

Quoting domestic help, relative of the victim Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that the couple had a quarrel on that night. At one stage, her husband left the house with their four-year-old son Badhon.

On information, the victim's relatives came to the house and found her body hanging from the fan, he said, adding that her family suspected that Sumon hanged the body after he killed her.

CAB demands consumers ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday demanded the government form a separate consumers ministry in order to protect the interests of consumers and continue anti-adulteration drives across the country, says a press release.

They also called for passing Consumers Rights Protection Ordinance 2008 in parliament, check the price hike of essentials and properly exercise the pure food act.

The demands were placed at a special general meeting of the association at its Segunbagicha office in the city.

CAB member AKK Mahmudul Hasan Dara presided over the meeting which was addressed by its Vice President HKM Yusuf and Treasurer Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan.

2 hurt in CU BCL feud

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong University (CU) unit were injured in a factional clash at the university Railway Station yesterday.

The injured were identified as Abhro, third year student of Marketing department, and Tushar, first year student of Public Administration department.

Sources said an altercation erupted between two groups centring supremacy in compartments of the shuttle train at around 2:00pm. At one stage of the altercation, they locked into clash leaving Abhro and Tushar injured.

Later, police brought the situation under control. However, CU BCL General Secretary Mohammad Ershad Hossain denied involvement of the BCL activists in the clash.

CU Proctor Dr Mohammad Anwarul Islam said any grouping in shuttle train is restricted and action will be taken against those who were involved in the clash.

DHAKA TODAY

Garment machinery expo

The 6th Dhaka Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition will begin. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 12:00noon.

Discussion

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad organises a discussion on 'Strengthening cooperation between Bangladesh-India: A comprehensive approach to trade, connectivity including transit and other major issues'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Cake festival

The second cake festival at Stamford University Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Stamford University campus, Siddheswar. Time: 10:00am.

Award giving ceremony

'Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Award-2009' giving ceremony will be held. Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Luncheon meeting

The monthly luncheon meeting of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 12:30pm.



Lawmaker Khandakar Abdul Baten and eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan hoist flags at the inaugural ceremony of the annual prize giving ceremony and a science fair at Belayet Hossain Bahumukhi High School in Tangail yesterday.

'Formulate proper edn policy'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Speakers at a programme yesterday called for formulating a proper education policy to ensure quality education.

Reforms of the education system are a must for a better future, they said and called on the students to groom themselves as worthy citizens.

The speakers made the call at the inaugural session of the annual prize giving ceremony at Belayet Hossain Bahumukhi High School at Delduar in Tangail yesterday.

A three-day science fair was also inaugurated at the school yesterday.

Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, former adviser to the caretaker government Rokia

Afzal Rahman, lawmaker Khandakar Abdul Baten, Chairman of Pay Commission Mostafizur Rahman, Prof Rounaq Jahan of Columbia University, USA, President of Bangladesh Computer Samity Mostofa Jabbar and Delduar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Humayun Kabir spoke at the inaugural ceremony presided over by Delwar Hossain, founder of the school.

The guests gave away prizes to the students who got GPA 5 in the SSC examinations and also distributed scholarships among the students.

Earlier, students of the school took part in a march-past.

Later, the guests inaugurated the science fair at the school. The students displayed their science projects at 15 stalls.

A cultural show was also held at the auditorium of the school with the participation of students.

DEATH OF JUI Judicial probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural activists and professionals yesterday demanded judicial investigation into the cause of death of Razia Sultana Jui, a fashion designer, who fell victim to faulty surgery.

They also demanded punishment to those responsible for her death. Jui died following a faulty surgery on her at Galaxy Hospital in Mirpur on January 24.

At a press conference, members of the 'Platform against irregularities, harassment, repression and commercialism in medical centres'

said Jui was admitted to the hospital with abdominal pain but she died 13 hours later.

They blamed surgeon Dr Atiar Rahman and his associates Dr Mohammad Saiful Islam and Dr ATM Zafrullah, managing director of Galaxy Hospital, for her death.

They said two more patients also fell victim to faulty surgery by the same surgeon, but no action has yet been taken against the doctor.

"This surgeon is still performing surgery at the General Hospital at Mirpur 13. But the authorities are yet to take

action against him," said Jui's brother Asaduzzaman Swapan.

The speakers called on the government to take steps to put an end to autocratic attitude of doctors and other medical professionals towards the patients at hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres.

They also called for formulating a policy to ensure accountability of the hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and doctors.

Nasreen Akhter, mother of six-year-old Nahian, a victim of the surgeon, also spoke at the press conference.



US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A Boucher calls on Home Minister Sahara Khatun at her office in the city yesterday.

Govt asked to make JS effective

FROM PAGE 16

Bangabandhu, the four national leaders and SASM Kibria and the culprits of the August 21 grenade attacks are tried.

Ashraf conveyed the government's willingness to continue the anti-corruption campaign by strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). If one or two persons are aggrieved at the actions of the ACC, they can fight against it in the court, he said.

He added that the government is trying to bring the prices of essentials within the purchasing capacity of the people.

BNP lawmaker AKM Hafizur Rahman, former caretaker government adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, Shushashon Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan) General Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, Prof Syed Manzurul Islam, Prof Tofail Ahmed, Prof Mahbub Hossain, Prof Nurul Islam, Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman and Joint Editor Abdul Qayum Chowdhury, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the event.

Hafizur Rahman said the BNP is sincere to extend coop-

eration to the government in recasting the ACC, facing the challenges in coming days and making parliament effective.

The government will have to play the key role in this regard and the ruling party has to tolerate criticisms of the opposition and should not push the opposition to the streets, he said.

Badiul Alam Majumder said the government has to take up a programme to effectively decentralise the administration in order to strengthen the local government system for economical development of the country.

Rasheda K Chowdhury said special initiative has to be taken to materialise the AL's election manifesto to ensure the primary education for all by 2011 and remove illiteracy by 2017.

"Special initiatives also have to be taken to admit indigenous and poor students to schools. Appointments of teachers will have to be transparent," she said, adding that the main obstacle to achieving the goal in the education sector is the lack of necessary statistics.

She stressed the need for registration of all kinds of educational institutions including the Karmi madrasas as registration of

kindergartens has been started.

Prof Manzurul Islam said introducing the Kudrat-E-Khuda education policy will fundamentally develop the standard of education.

He said there is a necessity of student politics in the country but that will have to be based on ideologies and be non-partisan.

Teachers' salaries and facilities should also have to be increased but their politics should be discouraged to enhance the standard of education, he added.

Prof Zafar Iqbal said allocations should be increased for research work at universities.

If poor students in the rural areas are provided with sufficient books, they will be encouraged in studying and this will also reduce discrimination between the students of rural and urban areas, he said.

Matur Rahman said a meeting should be held soon between other AL and BNP leaders--if not between their chiefs--in order to make parliament effective. All problems including that of seating arrangement can be solved in parliament as there has not been any development between the two whips, he said.

English-Speaking Union opens branch in Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

The London-based English-Speaking Union (ESU) opened its 67th branch in Bangladesh with an objective to 'create global understanding through English'.

Organisers yesterday said that English-Speaking Union of Bangladesh (ESU, B) appeared as an independent organisation with affiliation of the ESU. Eminent business figure Asif A Chowdhury is its chairman and Maj Gen (ret'd) Jiban Kanai Das is general secretary.

They said British High Commissioner Stephen Evans and the founder of Britain-based Sir William Beveridge Foundation Rahman Jilani as corporate members of the ESU in London gave their consents to be the chief patron and the patron of ESU, B.

Sir William Beveridge Foundation, a leading charity also operating in Bangladesh, will bear the initial routine expenses of the ESU, B.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Rabiya Khatun Talukder, former president of Bangladesh Women Sports Federation (BWSF) and national sports award winner, passed away due to old age complications at Multi Care Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 83.

Rabiya, also a sports organiser, is survived by her only daughter, admirers and sports lovers to mourn her death.

Her body was kept on the Bangladesh Women Sports Federation premises to pay last respect to her by the people from all walks of life.

Rabiya was buried at Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque.

BWSF President Rafia Akhtar Dolly and General Secretary Mahfuz Akhter Kiron consoled the death.

They also prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

AFM Imam Uddin

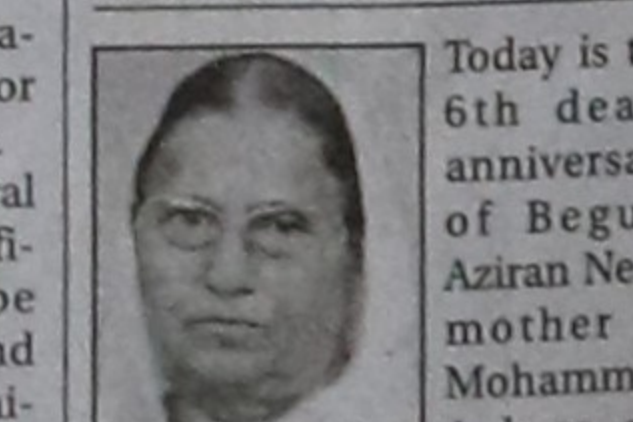
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AFM Imam Uddin, a freedom fighter, former vice-president of Bangladesh Sanjuktta Sramic Federation and founding convener of Somajbadi Chhatrajote, passed away due to heart attack on Friday at the age of 60, says a press release.

Bangladesh Sanjuktta Sramic Federation and Somajbadi Chhatrajote consoled his death and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to his family members.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Begum Aziran Nesa, mother of Mohammad A k m a l

Hossain, former director general of Export Promotion Bureau and Ambassador Major General (Ret'd) Mohammad Anwar Hossain, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her village home in Khoksa-Janipur in Kushtia.

Relative and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 32.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.3 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.2	16.0
Chittagong	29.6	16.8
Rajshahi	29.5	11.7
Khulna	29.6	15.2
Barisal	30.0	13.0
Sylhet	31.3	15.2
Cox's Bazar	32.3	17.8
	Morning	Evening
	63	40
	69	50
	66	55
	82	58
	78	64
	64	40
	59	62