

Help build modern Bangladesh

PM urges China

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought Chinese cooperation in building Bangladesh as a modern and prosperous country, as her new government has adopted Vision-2021 for lifting

the country on a higher plane of development.

As a five-member delegation of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) led by its President Jiang Jiemin called on Hasina at the Prime Minister Office yesterday, she said China can help Bangladesh to a great extent by sharing its experience and technology in building Bangladesh as a developed country.

She also sought China's cooperation in developing the gas and power sectors and called for more Chinese investment.

Hasina said, "Bangladesh

has an investment-friendly environment, cheap but skilled manpower and here capital is also kept well protected."

The Chinese delegation highly praised the PM for the government's success in maintaining the country's inland law and order and hoped that under her leadership, Bangladesh would be able to achieve the cherished development.

As the delegation invited the PM to visit China, she said after forming the government in 1996, her first trip was to Beijing.

They hoped that the friendly relationship between the two countries would strengthen further in the days to come.

The prime minister said, "Bangladesh attaches due importance to the friendly bilateral relations with China."

Energy Adviser Dr Tofig-Elahi Chowdhury, newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi, PMO Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman and Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad were present.

CNPC is the largest integrated oil and gas company in China, an economic powerhouse of the present-day world. The Petroleum Corporation has exploration and production projects in China and 26 other countries, including operations in Azerbaijan, Canada, Indonesia, Iraq, Myanmar, Oman, Peru, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

The Chinese giant also operates some older refineries and an extensive oil-and-gas-pipeline network in China. It also operates a network of 1,650 gas stations.

CTG ARMS HAUL 10 govt officials to be quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Public Prosecutor Advocate Kamal Uddin yesterday suggested interrogating ten government officials to expedite the investigation into the sensational Chittagong arms haul case.

He made the suggestions when the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Senior ASP of CID Muniruzzaman Chowdhury met him at his chamber yesterday to discuss the investigation process, sources said.

The ten government officials included the then assistant director of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, the then deputy commissioner (port) Abdullah Baki, the then assistant commissioner (port) Mahmudur Rahman of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, and previous two IOs of the case AKM Kabir Uddin and Ahadur Rahman.

The five others are Coast Guard personnel who were on duty but their names could not be known.

The IO told the PP that notices will be issued to the ten government officials to appear before the investigators for interrogation at CID Chittagong divisional headquarters at Dampara Police Lines, the sources added.

Advocate Kamal Uddin also suggested taking former CUFL managing director Mohsin Talukder and former general manager (administration) Enamul Haq on fresh remand in the case filed in connection with the ten truckloads of firearms hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 02, 2004.

The PP also said the time for investigation can be extended further, if needed.

Correction

The full name of the school from where Adeena Anahita Alam and Nabil Bin Murtuza scored highest marks in the world in Pure Mathematics and in English Literature respectively in O Level exams should read Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT), not Tutorial as mentioned in the 'World Highest Marks Achievers' list published in The Daily Star on March 15.



Persons with disabilities take part in a procession marking the 11th National Day for the Persons with Disabilities and the 2nd International Autism Awareness Day yesterday. Ministry of Social Welfare, National Disability Development Foundation (NDDF), National Forum of Organisation Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and Department of Social Service jointly organised the event. (Story on Page 5)

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT IN S ASIA

Call for integrated approach to development issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Emphasising the need to make the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) functional, speakers at a regional conference yesterday called for an integrated approach to dealing with socio-economic and climate change issues in the region.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) organised the two-day regional conference titled 'Regional conference on inclusive development and climate justice in South Asia' in association with the Imagine a New South Asia (INSA) and ActionAid. Yesterday was the last day of the conference.

"Saarc has become merely a talking shop on topics involving peace and development in the region. Interdependency among the countries in Saarc is limited," Chief whip of parliament Abus Shahid

said while speaking as the chief guest.

"Saarc should emphasise on mutual cooperation involving intergrated production and network and it is needed to build an identity as South Asian to deal with socio-economic and climate change issues," he added.

BUP Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad and Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir presented separate papers on 'Inclusive development'.

In his paper, Dr Kholiquzzaman recommended establishing a South Asian Climate Change Fund to support activities in the member countries in response to intensifying climate change, establishing a South Asia Development Bank to fund people's development, establishing people's democracy at all levels of society and ensuring freedom of speech, media freedom and the right to information.

"Although all of us are citizens of different countries, we have a common identity as South Asian. We have shared experiences and cultural practices to beat poverty, exclusion and gender injustice in the region. While under crisis we have to work in order to make Saarc functional irrespective of our nationality," said Jowher Hasan Zakia, who presided over the first session of concluding ceremony, in her concluding remarks.

"Demands of the marginalised people must be listened to and their voice must be heard to ensure inclusive development, as development should be for all and by all," said AL lawmaker Mostafa Faruque Muhammad.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Chair of INSA National Steering Committee Prof Anisuzzaman and advocate Sultana Kamal also addressed the conference.



China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) President Jiang Jiemin calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.



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