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US, China set broad table for first top-level 'dialogue'

AFP, Washington

The United States and China will hold their first top-level "dialogue" on a broad range of issues in Washington this week that could set the agenda for the two megapowers for years to come.

The US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue on Monday and Tuesday is to focus on bilateral, regional and global challenges on economic and foreign policy issues, as well as climate change.

The two biggest developed and developing economies will discuss the global economic and financial crisis, the worst since the Great Depression, and what further steps are needed for recovery and financial system reform.

On the policy track, North Korea's nuclear program, the war in Afghanistan, governance,

health and infectious diseases are among the array of subjects on the table.

A senior US official said "human rights, of course, will be discussed," citing Tibet and unrest in China.

The United States, the world's biggest energy consumer, and China, the biggest producer of carbon dioxide -- the chief greenhouse gas -- are set to tackle the thorny issues of climate change and energy programs.

More than 180 nations are due to negotiate a new climate change deal at a Copenhagen conference in December to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Launched by President Barack Obama and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao in April, the joint meeting aims to bring together high-level officials for intensive, in-depth discussions to

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Agitated RMG workers damage 20 vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around one thousand agitating workers from Alpine Garments Factory vandalised at least 20 vehicles putting barricade on the road in the city's Gulshan area yesterday in protest against retrenchment of fellow workers.

The workers also staged demonstrations for over two hours causing a severe traffic jam in the area.

Witnesses said the workers from the factory took to the streets at around 1:00pm, put barricade on the road and started damaging vehicles indiscriminately while it was raining.

During the agitation, a severe panic gripped all the

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Workers of Alpine Garments Factory attack vehicles on the road in front of Hotel Westin near Gulshan-2 roundabout yesterday protesting sacking of fellow workers. The agitators, who also barricaded the main road, damaged at least 20 vehicles.

PHOTO: STAR



Indigenous people under the banner of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad (JAP) carry placards demanding protection of their rights and protesting attacks on the community as they start a march yesterday from Porsha upazila to Naogaon town.

PHOTO: STAR

PM's directive for steps to boost foreign investment

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed country's diplomatic missions abroad to take necessary steps for increasing exports and attracting foreign investment into Bangladesh.

She also said the Board of Investment (BoI) has to make a fresh start under the new government with the aim of giving a boost to investment.

The PM gave the directives while presiding over the 24th meeting of BoI at her office yesterday.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting, which discussed a wide range of issues on trade and business, including the minutes of the 23rd board meeting and investment and industrialisation situation of the 2008-09 fiscal year.

The meeting was apprised of BoI's future work plans, organisational structure and progress in implementation of the decisions.

Pointing to the hundreds of thousands of expatriate Bangladeshis, Hasina asked the authority to encourage them to invest in the homeland.

"Offer them excellent incentive packages and other

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Set up central effluent treatment plants

Business leaders demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Describing the environment as the most neglected cause in the country over the years, the business leaders demanded the government to build central effluent treatment plants (CETP) on a priority basis at different industrial clusters.

They also demanded long-term loans with low interest and withdrawal of taxes on chemicals used in treatment plants while the members of special parliamentary standing committee on forest and environment ministry led by Saber Hossain Chowdhury joined a discussion session of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) yesterday.

MCCI announced they would not make any environment polluter their member.

Describing the dire situation of surface water and ground water in and around the capital, Saber said if the present situation con-

tinues, the Dhaka city will have to be abandoned in a decade.

He referred to some measures taken in India in recent years following their High Court directives to the Indian government.

"We need to do something for the business community and country's environment to be in a win-win situation," he said.

MCCI President Abdul Hafiz in his speech said the business community is conscious that the river system of the country is a victim of industrial growth.

However, he said, problems created over many years cannot be resolved in a few months and blamed the government for neglecting environmental issues.

He urged the government to implement the directives the HC spelled out recently to save the rivers.

Ghyas Uddin Ahmed, a lawmaker, said the

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Jubo League man hacked to death in Jessore

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A Jubo League activist was hacked to death by a group of miscreants over factional feud on Saturday night in Jessore.

The deceased was identified as Shohag, 21, son of Kowsar Muhuri of Shahpara in Nilgonj area.

Police arrested five persons for their alleged involvement in the incident.

The arrestees are Chan Mia, Shajedur Rahman Babu of Jhumhumpur area, Masud, Rocky of City College para and Anik of Bockchaur area.

Police and relatives said, Babu called Shohag out of his home over phone at about midnight. The miscreants might have taken him behind

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Long march by indigenous people to protest attacks

ANWAR ALI, from Mohadevpur, Naogaon

Over two hundred members of the indigenous community yesterday began a two-day long march across 55 kilometres from Porsha upazila to Naogaon town yesterday to protest attacks on indigenous families.

The march was organised under the banner of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad (JAP) after a gang led by Nur Hossain Master of Soraigachhi attacked the houses of some 74 families including 54 indigenous families at Katipur on June 12.

They torched, damaged and looted the houses and also randomly beat up indigenous men, women and children during the attack.

Since the attack, some 300 members of the affected families have been left without homes, and the local administration has not come forward to help them, the protesters allege.

On the first day yesterday, the protesters walked some 30 kilometres from Soraigachhi in Porsha to Mohadevpur upazila sadar.

They will be joined by 300 more people this morning as they begin the march to Naogaon town. At Naogaon they will submit a memoran-

dum to the local administration.

The protesters are carrying traditional bows and arrows to show that they will fight for their demands for security and protection of their ancestral lands, JAP leaders said.

They have meanwhile placed forward a nine-point demand which include demands for their rights and security, the arrest of Nur Hossain Master and his accomplices and the removal of the officer-in-charge of Porsha police station as the OC, they allege, is joining hands with the land grabbers.

Their demands also include constitutional recognition, formation of a land commission and a separate ministry for plainland indigenous people.

Communist Party of Bangladesh's central committee member Dr Fazlul Haque, Naogaon unit president Mainul Haque Mukul, general secretary Mohsin Reza, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal leader Subhrangsu Chakrabarti and Joyanal Abedin, Jatiya Krishak Samity's general secretary Aminul Islam Golap, Dinajpur unit president Abdul Haque, and Workers' Party's Mainuddin Chisti took part in the march and expressed their solidarity.

FIRST ODI UPDATE

Bangladesh scored 246/9 in 50 overs. Ashraful hit 57, Shabbir 54 and Mahmudullah 42 runs. Roach took 5 wks for 44. Windies were 42/4 from 12 overs at 1:50am. Rasel and Mahmudullah took one wicket each while Razzak took 2.

10 injured as BCL factions clash at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the BCL unit at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University at midnight last night.

Campus sources said the clash erupted at about 12:15 am between Shaheen group and Nobiruzzaman Babu group following an altercation at the television room of the dormitory.

Shaheen group swooped on Babu group with iron rod and wood sticks. Both groups ransacked around 10 rooms, including office of the hall provost.

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Ruling party men snatch tenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cadres of Awami League and its wings Jubo League and Chhatra League yesterday snatched tender schedule from two food-supply agencies at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Witnesses said they also misbehaved with DMCH Director Brig Gen Bazle Quader in presence of law enforcers when he declared punitive measures against the miscreants.

Soon after the incident, manager of one of the victim agencies went to Shahbagh Police Station for filing a general diary. However, police said they would file it after verification, sources said.

Yesterday was the last date for submitting tender schedules for supply of meat, fish and eggs at DMCH for one year.

Witnesses said the ruling party cadres snatched the schedules from Liza Enterprise and SF Enterprise representatives by physically assaulting them at around 12:00 noon when they went to drop their schedules in a box near to the DMCH director's office.

According to the witnesses, DMCH unit AL leader Ramiz, Jubo League leader Dina, Manik alias Dhopa Manik and Chhatra League leader Mosharraf and some other cadres took part in the

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This man was caught red-handed yesterday while selling arms in Chittagong city.

PHOTO: STAR

Arms seized in Cox's Bazar, Ctg city

CU CORRESPONDENT

Rab and Detective Branch (DB) personnel in separate drives recovered six firearms including five light guns from Cox's Bazar and the city yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-7 men from Chittagong raided Maizbuna village in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar district at around 3.00am when a gang of miscreants gathered there

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JMB suspect held at DU

UNB, Dhaka

A suspected JMB activist was arrested along with two Islamic books in front of SM Hall of Dhaka University last night.

The arrested person was identified as Mamun, 32, hailed from Chandpur district.

Police said the residents of the dormitory caught Mamun at about 10:00pm while he was "moving suspiciously" on the campus.

He was handed over to police and later taken to Shahbagh Police Station for interrogation.

OnlinePoll

Do you think law enforcers often get involved in criminal activities because of poor wages?

☐ Yes (71.8%)
☐ No (23.3%)
☐ No Comments (4.9%)

Total votes: 1220

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think introducing articulated buses with increased passenger capacity will help ease the nagging traffic congestion in the capital?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Woman killed as train rams auto-rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In yet another level crossing accident, a woman was killed and her daughter and the driver of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw were injured as a speedy train rammed the three-wheeler trying to cross the level crossing at Malibagh last night.

Reena Majumder, 40, of west Dhanmondi died on the spot. Her daughter Aurin Majumder, 14, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition while the driver of the auto-rickshaw was admitted to a local clinic, police said.

Reena and her daughter were returning to their Dhanmondi residence by the CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

Witnesses said the accident occurred around 9:45pm when the driver of the auto-rickshaw attempted to cross the level crossing although the Kamalapur-bound Parabat express from Sylhet was very close.

Officials of Kamalapur Government Railway Police said the body of Reena Majumder and the auto-rickshaw were taken in their custody.

Relatives of the deceased said the ill-fated mother and daughter returned to Bangladesh from the USA last month.

Earlier on June 17, eight people were injured when an express

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Waste and water hyacinth fill Gulshan Lake near Brac office making the water body in the posh residential area a permanent source of stink and mosquito.

PHOTO: STAR