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Today's issues 28 pages

Dhaka-Beijing joint statement outlines closer cooperation
UNB, Beijing

China's help sought for deep-sea port, road link

PM invites more Chinese investment in Bangladesh

UNB, Beijing

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought Chinese cooperation to construct a deep-sea port in Chittagong and establish road link between Chittagong and Kunming.

"China can be benefited by using the deep seaport while all neighbouring countries also can use it," Hasina said as a key speaker at the Bangladesh-China Business Forum and Luncheon Reception at State Guest House Diaoouthai.

The PM invited Chinese investors to put money in Bangladesh's promising sectors like textiles, small machineries, fertilisers, footwear and ceramics.

She also encouraged investment in IT outsourcing, tourism, healthcare, education, power, telecommunications, infrastructure development, gas and energy, agro-based industries and pharmaceuticals.

"I would urge you to invest in Bangladesh which would be lucrative as well as strengthen further our two countries' relation," Hasina said.

She expected bilateral trade between Dhaka and Beijing would increase to \$5 billion in 2010 from \$4.58 billion in 2009.

The China Council for Promotion of International Trade and Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing jointly arranged the reception.

The PM stressed on "energetic" efforts from both Bangladesh and China for increasing exports from Dhaka to Chinese markets in a bid to reduce the huge trade gap.

Hasina said though Bangladesh is now South Asia, the trade balance is hugely in favour of China.

"I, therefore, invite you to Bangladesh with the assurance of all possible assistance in your investment ventures," she said.

"I hope my call to you would receive your favourable response and thus bring greater prosperity to our neighbouring countries and friendly peoples," she added.

The Bangladesh premier said scope also exists for joint ventures with buy back arrangements for exports to Europe, and for equity participation in private sector.

To facilitate bilateral trade and commerce, she said Bangladesh is agreeable to open multi-designations and multi-destinations arrangement for the two airlines.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Hu Jintao shake hands at the Great Hall in Beijing yesterday.

Hasina meets Chinese president
BSS, Beijing

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought Chinese assistance and cooperation to turn Bangladesh into a modern digital country and face climate change battle.

The premier made the request when she met Chinese President Hu Jintao at Fu Jian Hall of the Great Hall in the Chinese capital.

The Chinese president assured Hasina of his country's continued cooperation towards achieving socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

Hasina at the meeting expressed the hope that comprehensive partnership of cooperation between Bangladesh and China will help Bangladesh achieve its development goals.

EC asks parties to report on affiliated student wings
BSS, Dhaka

JRC MEET ENDS Dhaka places draft of interim Teesta deal

India presents 'principles' of water sharing

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India last night exchanged draft agreements and promised to go ahead expeditiously towards resolving the vexed Teesta water-sharing issue.

Seeking to address Bangladesh's concerns on Tipaimukh dam and river inter-linking project, India reiterated "that it would not take steps that would adversely impact on Bangladesh and conveyed that it would also not take any unilateral decisions on its proposed

BANGLADESH BORDER India mulls 'no-firing' for a year
OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday said it might declare a unilateral "no-firing" along its border with Bangladesh for a year to avoid civilian deaths in crossfire.

"We are considering unilateral no-firing on the border for one year. The modalities of that are being worked out," Indian Home Secretary Gopal Krishna Pillai said at the India-Bangladesh security dialogue.

Shady business with seized rickshaws

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

That way, the three-wheelers impounded last year are returning to the city streets.

This deals a blow to the home ministry's plan to get rid of the unlicensed rickshaws in the capital and ease traffic congestion.

In a letter to DMP on December 15, the ministry said the rickshaws seized for not having registration with Dhaka City Corporation would be given to the disadvantaged people elsewhere in the country.

It also mentioned that a constituency would be allotted seized rickshaws on request from its lawmaker.

A committee comprising deputy commissioner and superintendent of police, among those in the capital, said DMP traffic sources.

'ILLEGAL' VOIP Govt shuts RanksTel operations
Company denies involvement
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sadarghat launch terminal bustles with people again yesterday. It returned to its usual self after the water transport workers on Thursday night called off the strike that lasted for three days.

Cops dictate terms for Ahmadiyya programmes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bowing to threats of Khatme Nabuwat Movement, Brahmanbaria police yesterday imposed seven conditions on the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat community's annual religious programme at Kandipara.

Amid death threats issued by Khatme Nabuwat on Ahmadiyya people and threats to foil the programme, police asked Ahmadiyya leaders not to use any loudspeakers in their programme that began yesterday. They also asked them to keep the programme confined to their mosque premise and hold no talks on politics, anti-government movements or anything indecent. The police placed the condition of "no misinterpretation of religion" and finishing the programme by 6:00pm each day of the two-day programme.

The law enforcers in the conditions also outlined discussion topics - Ideals of Hazrat Muhammad (SM) and the Quran - on which the Ahmadiyya leaders will be able to speak on.

Tahfuze Khatme Nabuwat Jubo Sangathan had written to the deputy commissioner of the district asking for help in preventing "anti-Islamic activities". They claimed that allowing the Ahmadiyya programme to be held could deteriorate law and

WB to help build small power plants
UNB, Dhaka

Siddhirganj power project hits a snag

Disagreement with World Bank over equipment makes financing uncertain

SHARIER KHAN

The troubled tender process for 300 megawatt Siddhirganj gas-fired peaking power project hits a snag again as the government and the World Bank have taken contradictory stance over the use of equipment manufactured by German company Siemens in the project.

The project's financier the WB in July last year informed the government its decision that Siemens has been restrained from participating in projects financed by the WB Group till December 31 this year as the bank was investigating an allegation of corruption against the company.

The Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) that floated the tender in January last year and got offers from several bidders on April 30 has conditionally recommended Chinese company Sinohydro as the lowest competitive bidder. The company uses Siemens equipment.

On the other hand, the project's Canadian

Life back on waterways
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inland water transport resumed plying yesterday after the workers called off their indefinite strike following a tripartite meeting with the government and vessel owners Thursday night.

General Secretary of Noutjan Sramik Federation Ashiquil Alam Chowdhury said all their leaders and workers resumed working soon after the strike was withdrawn.

However, Senior Vice-President of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said business was dull yesterday as strike call-off came late on Thursday.

Thursday's meeting formed a 16-member committee and asked it to review the workers' 22-point demands. The committee is to submit a report incorporating wage structure for inland water transport workers in

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Fakir Akhteruzzaman Managing Director of Fakir Knitweaves Ltd. is receiving National Export Trophy (Bronze) for the year 2006-2007 from Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

IKL

Under your able guidance and leadership we are proud to be behind you on the occasion of your invaluable achievement.

Staff and Workers of Fakir Knitweaves Ltd. Nikita Apparels Ltd.