

JOINT STATEMENT

Dhaka, Beijing to expand bilateral trade

UNB, Beijing

Bangladesh and China have decided to establish a "Closer Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation" from the strategic perspective and on the basis of the principles of longstanding friendship, equality, and mutual benefit.

A joint statement, issued yesterday after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, said the leaders of the two countries had an in-depth exchange of views and reached agreement on newer directions for taking China-Bangladesh relations forward.

The joint statement said the two sides agreed to take active measures to expand bilateral trade and ease trade imbalance. The Chinese side will provide preferential tariff treatment to more Bangladeshi products and continue to boost bilateral investment and trade activities.

The Bangladesh side will encourage Bangladeshi enterprises to actively participate in the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and other commodity fairs in China to boost Bangladesh's exports to China.

The Chinese side expressed its commitment to continue to offer assistance to Bangladesh in support of the economic and social development.

The two sides signed the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, the Framework Agreement on Providing Preferential Loan, the Protocol on Remitting the Bangladesh Interest-free Loan due 2008 and the Exchange of Letters on the Construction of the seventh Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Kajirtek.

They agreed to intensify efforts for the early start of such further projects as the eighth Friendship Bridge (second Meghna Bridge) and the construction of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre to be undertaken by China.

The two sides agreed to encourage and support their own enterprises to carry out two-way investment and mutually beneficial cooperation, and provide facilitation for enterprises of both sides in project

contracting and labour service cooperation.

The two prime ministers noted that October 4, 2010 marks the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China. They agreed to hold various commemorative activities in Beijing and Dhaka, and take this opportunity to promote and further develop the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to continue to exchange high-level visits, intensify friendly exchanges between government agencies, parliaments, political parties, armed forces, and non-governmental groups of the two countries; promote cooperation at the local government level, and enhance the cooperation mechanisms, including diplomatic consultations, the Joint Economic and Trade Committee and the Joint Agriculture Committee.

The Bangladesh side welcomed the active involvement of Chinese enterprises in the energy, communication, transportation, industry and infrastructure sectors in Bangladesh.

The Chinese side would encourage and support capable and reputable Chinese enterprises to explore and carry out investment cooperation in the above-mentioned fields in Bangladesh, and to provide possible facilitation and financing support for mutually agreed cooperation projects.

The two sides agreed to enhance transport links and, to continue to discuss the possibility of building road and rail links between the two countries.

The two sides, based on the MoU on Agriculture Cooperation signed in 2005, will actively carry out cooperation in hybrid rice cultivation technology, including hybrid rice seed production technology, agricultural machinery technology, exchange of germ plasm resources of crops, farm products processing and technical personnel training.

The two sides will enhance exchanges between technical and managerial personnel of agriculture, and further explore specific ways and means of expanding agricultural cooperation.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on water resources management,

hydrological data sharing, on flood control and disaster reduction, based on the exchange of letters between the ministries of water resources of the two countries in 2005.

At the request of the Bangladesh side, the Chinese side agreed to provide assistance for dredging of riverbeds and for capacity building through training of personnel.

The two sides discussed the need for regular exchange of information and consultation on the use of the water resources of river Yarlungzangbu/Brahmaputra to ensure sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation in this regard.

The two sides also agreed to examine, in near future, the possibility of setting up an institutional mechanism for such consultations involving all co-riparian countries.

The Bangladesh side expressed its desire to launch a communication and remote sensing satellite in orbit in the near future. The Chinese side expressed interest to provide necessary assistance to Bangladesh in this field.

In commemorating the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the two sides agreed to further widen people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will jointly host the China-Bangladesh Friendship and Brightness (Ophthalmic) Trip.

A team of Chinese medical experts will visit Bangladesh to offer free medical treatment to the Bangladeshi cataract patients.

The Chinese side will continue to provide government scholarships to Bangladesh and welcome Bangladeshi students to China for study under other programs and through other channels.

At the request of the Bangladesh side, the Chinese side agreed to consider increasing the number of scholarships offered by the Chinese government for Bangladeshi students from 80 to 150 within the next three years.

The two sides will strengthen exchange and cooperation for capacity building in Chinese language and human resources.

At the request of the Bangladesh side, the Chinese side also agreed to consider offering special scholarships for two young Bangladeshi diplomats to undertake a 2-year Masters Degree course at the Foreign Affairs University of China.

The two sides will actively expand exchanges and cooperation in culture, press, health, sports and tourism and promote contacts between media organisations, think tanks, scholars, friendship groups, women's groups, cultural troupes, athletes and youths.

The two sides agreed to consider negotiating and signing a bilateral consular agreement and will conduct consultations in this regard through diplomatic channels.

The two sides also agreed to set up a bilateral consular consultation mechanism at an appropriate time to jointly discuss visa and other issues of mutual concern. They also agreed to explore measures for easing visa procedures for the genuine businesspersons and tourists.

The two sides agreed to strengthen exchange and cooperation between the militaries and law enforcement departments at various levels and in various fields to safeguard respective national security and stability and promote peace and stability in the region.

The Chinese side reiterated its respect for Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and its support for the efforts of Bangladesh to uphold national stability and promote social development.

The Bangladesh side reiterated its support for the 'One China Policy' that the Chinese government is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan and Tibet are inalienable parts of the Chinese territory.

The Bangladesh side also reiterated its support for China's efforts in upholding sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

The two sides agreed to strengthen communication and coordination in regional cooperation. The Chinese side expressed appreciation for the active efforts made by Bangladesh to promote South Asian regional cooperation.

The Bangladesh side expressed support for Chinese efforts to enhance cooperation with the Saarc community. The two sides agreed to actively participate in and promote the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) regional economic cooperation process.

The two sides recognised the commonalities and shared perceptions of the two states in international and regional affairs, including the global financial crisis, climate change, energy and food security as well as issues relating to the aspirations and challenges of developing countries.

The two sides agreed to maintain close coordination and cooperation to uphold the common interests of the two countries as well as that of the developing countries in general.

The two sides also agreed to hold consultations on climate change at an appropriate time within this year. China will support Bangladesh in enhancing its capability to tackle climate change challenges.

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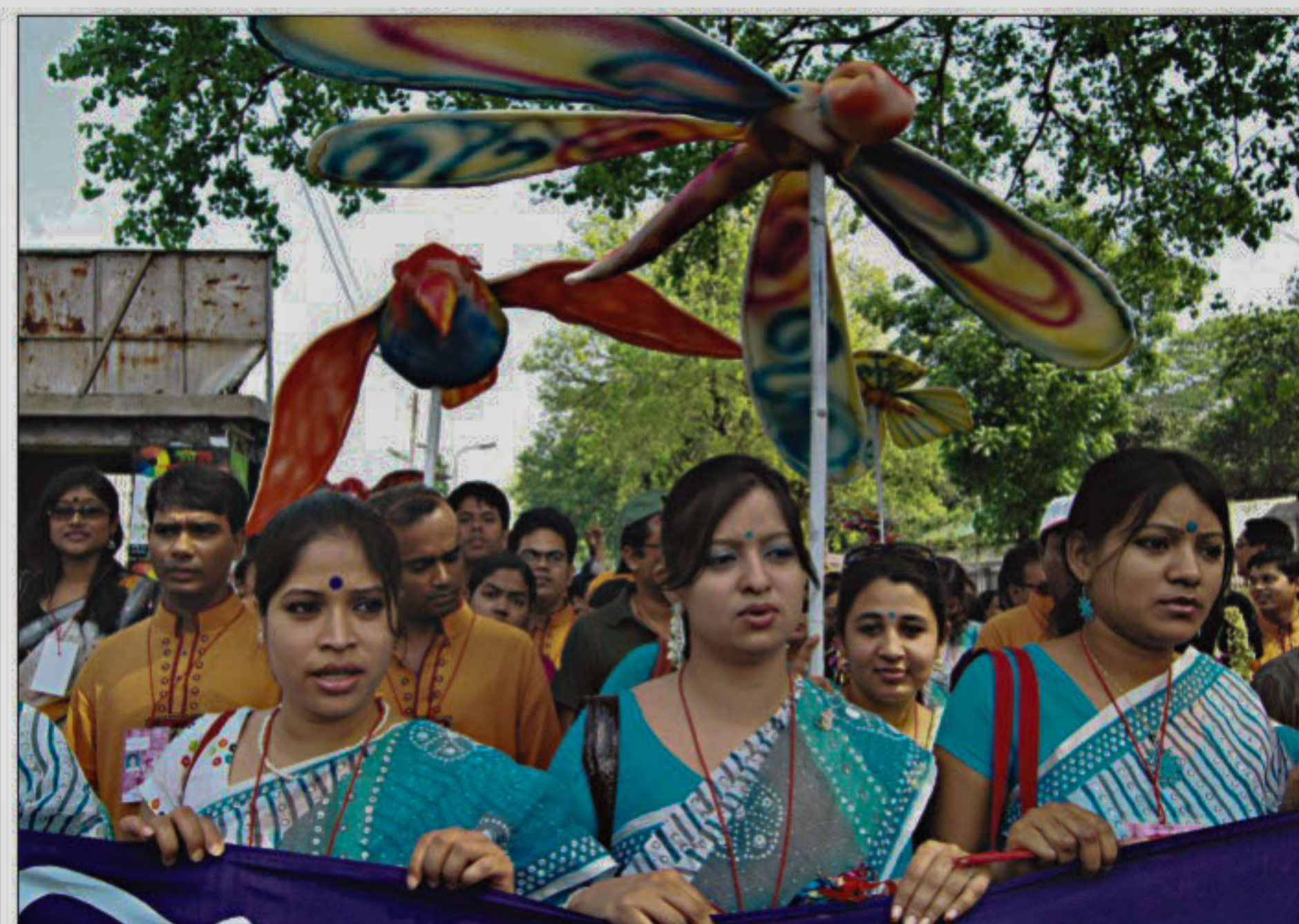
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Kanthashilian members take out a colourful procession from the Public Library in the city yesterday on the occasion of Waheedul Haq Memorial Festival 2010.

Give priority to public welfare Says Speaker

MITHAMAIN, Kishoreganj

Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid yesterday said public welfare should be given priority at every stage of a project-- from formulation to implementation.

"To meet the objective of a project, the project should always be completed within the stipulated time," he said at a meeting with local officers in his home constituency of Mithamain upazila.

The Speaker urged the officers to work with honesty and sincerity. The meeting focused on issues like education, health, agriculture and infrastructure.

Advocate Hamid said the responsibility of a pro-people government is to work for the welfare of the public.

He urged the government officers to work with local elected representatives to implement the government projects.

Later, the Speaker joined the annual meeting of the club.

Two domestic helps commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two teenage domestic helps allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents at Lalbagh and Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

Mohammadpur police recovered the body of Shamsunnahar, 15, from the residence of her employer Nazrul Islam at Basila in the morning.

She committed suicide by hanging herself from a window grill of the house, Sub-inspector Mahbubur Rahman said.

The other victim, Nupur, 16, committed suicide by taking poison.

She worked in the house of Jahanara Begum at Azimpur officers' quarters at Lalbagh.

Nupur took poison on Thursday and died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

However, causes behind their suicide could not be known.

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Luxury Apartments sale at Uttara

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Contact: Major (Retd) Iqbal Hossain, Phone: 01819557090



Students of Holy Cross Girls' High School display a project at a science fair on the school premises in the city yesterday.

Body of youth recovered at Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the floating body of a youth from a canal at South Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the city, yesterday.

Aged around 30 years, the deceased was wearing a jeans pant and a black shirt. Both of his hands were tied with a rope and eyes with a towel.

South Keraniganj police said the body was found in Piner Khal in the afternoon. Later, it was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Police suspected that the youth was killed on Thursday night and later his body was thrown into the canal.

Morgue sources said there were deep injury marks to his head.

Two workers injured in fall from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two construction workers received severe injuries after they fell down from a multi-storey under-construction building at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

Critically injured Murad Hossain, 18, and Harun-ur-Rashid, 29, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Fellow worker Alamgir Hossain, who witnessed the incident, said the workers fell down from the fourth floor of the building, located on Road-16 at Gulshan-1, when they were working to install a lift around 10:30am.

Grameenphone Ltd.

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Phone: 9882990, website: www.grameenphone.com

Price Sensitive Disclosure

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 101st meeting held on 19th March, 2010 at 7:30 pm approved the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2009 and took the following decisions:

- i) Recommended Dividend : 60% Cash Dividend (subject to approval of the Shareholders in the 13th AGM)
- ii) Net Asset Value (NAV) : BDT 5,015 crores (BDT 50.15 billion)
- iii) NAV Per Share : BDT 37.14
- iv) Earnings Per Share (EPS) : BDT 12.08
- v) Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFS) : BDT 24.77
- vi) Date of the 13th AGM : 8th June, 2010
- vii) Record Date : 8th April, 2010
- viii) Time & Venue of the 13th AGM : To be announced later

- Notes:
- a) Shareholders whose names appear in the Share/Depository Register on "Record Date" i.e. 8th April, 2010 will be eligible to attend the 13th AGM and receive dividend.
 - b) Shareholders are requested to update their addresses and particulars of Bank Account through their respective Depository Participants (DP) on or before the Record Date.
 - c) In terms of notification of the SEC, please note that no gift/gift coupon shall be distributed at the venue of the 13th AGM.

Date: 19th March, 2010

Sd/-
Company Secretary
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