

China may write off loans till 2008

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Securing a closer and stronger friendship and cooperative partnership, China is expected to come up with some important announcements, including write-off of loans given to Bangladesh till 2008.

Diplomatic sources said Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, who will pay a two-day official visit to Bangladesh on June 14-15, may announce write-off of loans, establishment of direct rail link between Dhaka and Kunming via Myanmar and assistance in building a deep sea port at Sonadia island for boosting trade and investment.

China has provided Bangladesh 1.5 billion US dollar so far, of which 978 million US dollar is hard loans.

Official sources said in commemorating the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations, China is very much willing to strengthen and develop relations of

friendship and cooperation with Bangladesh.

They said China is very much willing to establish direct rail link between Dhaka and Kunming, and help build a deep sea port at Sonadia Island.

"We are expecting important announcement by Xi Jinping regarding the Bangladesh-China direct link and their financial support for construction of a deep sea port," said a senior foreign ministry official.

During the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China on March 17-22, Beijing assured Bangladesh of using the deep sea port, which is very important for its viability, they added.

Since the planned seaport will require huge investment, assistance from more than one country will be needed. China will benefit from it as prices of Chinese products abroad will be less because of

shortening of distance, they added.

Officials said Dhaka and Beijing decided to establish "closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation from the strategic perspective" and the Xi Jinping's visit will be highly positive and get a new momentum of cooperation.

At the official talks, sources said a number of important issues, including Chinese assistance to construct Padma Bridge, will come up for discussion. An agreement related to economic cooperation will also be signed.

Official sources said Bangladesh will request China to use its good offices to convince Myanmar to begin construction of a road from Bangladesh's Gundhum area to Bolibazar in Myanmar. Bangladesh will pay for the construction of the 25km (16 mile) road. The road will be extended to connect Bangladesh with China and Thailand.

Rajuk continues drive against illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) knocked down illegal portions of a six-storied building and more than 50 semi-concrete structures during an eviction drive yesterday in the city.

Executive Magistrate Rokon-Ud-Dowla led the Rajuk team.

Rajuk demolished two top floors of a six-storied building at south Bank Colony of Mughdapara as constructed beyond the approved design, said Rokon-Ud-Dowla.

The building owner also expanded the structure by seven feet and this illegal portion too was demolished, he said.

Rajuk also demolished illegal structures at Kuratali near Kuril Biswa Road to recover

the occupied land for the proposed Kuril Flyover, as part of its ongoing drive.

On Tuesday, they knocked down over 100 illegal structures at the site of proposed Kuril Flyover at Kuratali on Tuesday.

Rajuk demolished a tilted five-storey building at Nakhapara on June 5. It will also demolish a four-storey madrasa at Begunbari on Saturday and Monday.



Noted singer Samina Chowdhury performs at the cultural evening styled 'Celebrating Life' at the central auditorium of the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (Sust) in Sylhet yesterday.

'Celebrating Life' in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

A daylong photography exhibition and cultural show styled 'Celebrating Life' was held at the central auditorium of the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (Sust) in Sylhet yesterday.

Sust Vice Chancellor Prof Saleh Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition featuring photographs from 'Celebrating Life', a composite competition, which brings film, photography and lyrics contests on the same platform.

The programme was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank under the yearly contest, which is being held for the third time this year with the theme 'Adanya Bangladesh' (Indomitable Bangladesh).

As many as 36 winning photographs from the last year's contest were put on display at the exhibition. The theme of the last year's contest was 'Celebrating Womanhood'.

A large number of enthusiastic students and local residents visited the exhibition and enjoyed the cultural evening.

Opening the photo exhibition in the morning, Prof Saleh Uddin Ahmed said, "We need to

highlight the success stories of our people in a bigger way for building a better Bangladesh. Greater focus should be given to the positive image of Bangladesh."

The cultural programme began with a patriotic song at 7:15pm.

Noted singer Samina Chowdhury then sang one after another song responding to the requests from the audience for about two hours.

"We enjoyed the programme very much. It was a refreshing to listen to a good number of classing Bangla songs," said Anwar, a student.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Badrul Ahsan, editor, current affairs, The Daily Star, said, "We have problems, we have miseries. But we have to go forward. That should be the spirit of life."

In addition to their regular study, students should get involved in the extra-curricular activities, so that they can prepare themselves to run the country in future, he added.

Branch Sales & Services Manager of the Standard Chartered Bank Fahmida Sadique and Sust Student Affairs Adviser Dr Md Younus also spoke. Rafi Hossain, coordinator of Celebrating Life, moderated the function.



Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan hands over Green Award to Biprodas Barua at a function at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city yesterday while Rafiqul Islam, extreme left, and Prof SM Inamul Haque, third from left, look on. Radio Today organised the event.



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Pictures show (from left) Mr. Mohammed Abdul Karim, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's office of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Mr. Jon F. Danilowicz, Acting Deputy Chief of the Mission, Embassy of the United States of America in Bangladesh delivering their speech on the occasion of Signing the Hotel Development services agreement recently held at Radisson Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka.

Mr. Xerxes Meher-Homji, Executive Vice President & Chief Development Officer, Asia Pacific, Carlson Hotels Worldwide and Mr. M. A. Alim Chowdhury, Managing Director, Clewiston Group are also seen exchanging the copy of the Agreement signed on behalf of their respective group.

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Renowned Gynaecologist and Obstetrician
Professor Dr. Maliha Rashid
is now in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

Professor Dr. Maliha Rashid graduated from Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC), Dhaka in 1983. She obtained FCPS (Obs/Gynae) from BCPS in 1990. She is the first fellow in Obs/Gynae among her contemporaries in Bangladesh. In her glorious career of 27 years, she was actively involved in Clinical Services, Teaching and Research at different Govt. Medical College & Hospitals. Prof. Maliha has wide experience in treating various obstetrical diseases, disorders and morbidities. She received advanced training in laparoscopic surgery from Kerala, India. She has special interest in Fetomaternal Medicine, Uro-Gynaecology, Gynae-Oncology and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Further, Prof. Maliha has many publications in reputed national & international journals. She attended and presided over seminars and presented papers in various national & international conferences specially in USA, UK, South Africa, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia etc.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, she was working as Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics/Gynaecology at Dhaka Medical College & Hospital, Dhaka.

Professor Dr. Maliha Rashid
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