

China keen to boost political, economic ties

Chinese Vice president tells banquet

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said that his country is interested to strengthen the economic, political and other participatory relations with Bangladesh.

He made the remark while speaking at the banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Sonargaon Hotel last evening. Jinpeng noted that a relation of mutual welfare already exists among the people of the two friendly countries.

"I hope, this will strengthen further and bring more prosperity for the two countries," he said.

The Chinese vice president said his country feels proud to have a good neighbour like Bangladesh.

He said that he had a fruitful meeting with Bangladesh prime minister yesterday.

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China to help build deep-sea port

Also offers assistance in installing country's first space satellite; economic cooperation agreement signed

UNB, Dhaka

China yesterday proposed to give assistance to Bangladesh for building deep-sea port in Chittagong and installing the country's first space satellite.

Beijing also agreed to quick disbursement of its assistance for Pagla Water Treatment Plant and Shahjalal Fertiliser Factory.

The agreement came at the official talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping at the PM's office in the afternoon.

During the hour-long talks the two leaders agreed to boost cooperation in political, economic and cultural fronts.

The talks followed the signing of an economic cooperation agreement under which Beijing will give grant of 40 million RMB, Chinese regional currency, to Dhaka.

Briefing reporters on the outcome of the

talks, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the Chinese side assured more investment in Bangladesh and reduce the bilateral trade imbalance by allowing more Bangladeshi products to have duty-free access to the Chinese market.

She said China also agreed to extend cooperation for the development of telecommunication and infrastructure in Bangladesh.

The two sides agreed to exchange data and information about the flow of the common river Brahmaputra.

The Chinese side agreed to help Bangladesh combat adverse impact of the climate change as well as extend cooperation in curbing militancy and terrorism.

Vice President Xi stressed the need for exchange of visits at the political level between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to make memorable

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PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping at her office yesterday.

PM pulls for water bodies

Asks housing minister to go ahead, not to bow down to pressure by developers

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the state minister for housing to go ahead with the plans to protect water bodies in the capital without yielding to pressure from any quarters.

She gave the directions when the state minister, Abdul Mannan Khan, met her on parliament floor. Senior ministers and lawmakers were there when the two talked.

The prime minister blasted the land developers for the way

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Onus on govt

Urban experts shocked at developers' excesses, say Dhaka to die if PM does not handle the issue firmly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban and environment experts who witnessed an unusual loggerhead between the housing minister and land developers said Dhaka city cannot be saved unless the government deals with the developers with an iron hand.

They urged strong and sincere measures to protect the flood-flow zones suggested in the Detail Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka.

"Unless the prime minister deals with the issue with an iron hand, it will be impossible to save Dhaka," said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, chairman of DAP Review Committee.

The suggestions came a day after land developers blasted State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan in a meeting over DAP which reserves 21 percent of the capital's land as water

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Rivals gear up for close contest

Ctg city polls campaign ends tonight; army deployed

SHARIFUL ISLAM and ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, from Ctg

Army personnel were deployed in Chittagong City Corporation area yesterday alongside other law enforcement agencies to improve law and order and ensure enforcement of the electoral code of conduct.

Contestants of the CCC polls continued vigorous campaigns as time for electioneering ends at 12:00am June 16, 32 hours before the start of balloting at 8:00am of June 17.

The Election Commission has almost completed all preparation for holding the polls and the battle for ballots has heated up Chittagong political arena.

In addition to police, Rab and BDR, six companies of the army consisted of 702 personnel were deployed in the city to maintain atmosphere conducive to holding a fair election. They will continue to work until June 18.

Empowered by the electoral laws, the army will engage in election duties and would

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'Outsiders' in campaign despite ban

EC's decision not well-circulated

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, DWAIPAYAN BARUA and NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR from Ctg

A number of Awami League and BNP leaders from Dhaka were seen on the campaign trail in Chittagong yesterday for two mayoral candidates of CCC polls, violating an earlier decision by the Election Commission.

The EC had decided not to allow any outsider in the port

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Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini (R) walks past ecstatic Paraguay players after Antolin Alcaraz put the South Americans in front on the 39th minute. Italy though found an equaliser through Daniele de Rossi on the 63rd minute as the group F encounter ended 1-1 at the Green Point stadium in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Italy held to a draw

REUTERS, Cape Town

Shot-shy Italy needed a scrambled second-half equaliser by Daniele De Rossi to snatch a 1-1 draw with Paraguay after the South Americans had looked like pulling off a shock victory in their World Cup opener Monday.

Antolin Alcaraz thumped in a header after 39 minutes after the World champions had begun their defence with a desperately flat Group F display in the pouring Cape Town rain.

The Italians were slightly better in the second half, levelling after another goalkeeping blunder in the 63rd minute, but did precious little to change the pessimistic view of their fans and media who sent them to South Africa with a verdict of no chance. Paraguay had beaten Brazil and Argentina in qualifying so had no need to be in fear of the holders but their dire World Cup record where they have not got past the second round in seven attempts, going out in the group stage four times, was always there in the background.

The game had meandered through almost an entire half of error-littered, unimaginative play before exploding into life in the 39th minute.

Aureliano Torres swung in a hopeful free-



kick from wide on the right but Alcaraz showed great determination to make it his, rising early and high above Fabio Cannavaro to power his header beyond Gianluigi Buffon.

It was a stunning blow for the Italians, who had looked completely untroubled until that point, albeit without ever looking remotely like scoring themselves.

Italy were forced to bring on Federico Marchetti for Buffon in goal at halftime but it was at the other end of the pitch where they needed

inspiration.

Little was forthcoming but they levelled when Justo Villar flapped and missed a Simone Pepe corner and De Rossi stuck out a foot to steer the ball into the empty net from close range.

Either side of the equaliser Paraguay could have had a second as Enrique Vera and substitute Jonathan Santana shot wide when well placed.

Italy roused themselves in the last 10 minutes in search of a winner but stout defending saw Paraguay hold on for deserved point.

Italy, who face New Zealand and Slovakia in their remaining group games, will look to 1982 for inspiration, when they drew their opener but went on to win the tournament.

Supplementary budget passed

MPs discuss, but hardly make any effort to examine reasons for additional spending by ministries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a Tk 11,987-crore supplementary budget for additional spending by ministries and divisions during the outgoing fiscal year.

It took only three hours to complete all procedures in the last two days -- holding of discussions on the supplementary budget, disposal of cut motions, approval of demands for grants and the passage of a bill.

The absence of BNP-led opposition lawmakers made the completion of the procedures easier. Dozens of cut motions by opposition lawmakers against the grants were not placed or discussed in the House during the passage.

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Old city wakes up to chemical reality

RAKIB AHAMMED

Loss of 121 lives in the Nimtoli tragedy created a deep sense of insecurity among the Old Dhaka dwellers. They apprehend they are living on a bomb that could go off anytime.

The most devastating fire in country's history prompted permanent residents of the area to sit together to find ways to protect the lives of over a million people living there. It is considered one of the most densely populated areas in the globe.

"Let our next generation survive," Akbar Hossain, a 40-year-old resident of the town, who lost seven of his family members in the Nimtoli blaze, made a plea with hands clasped in a social gath-



Flammable chemicals, a threat too often overlooked.

PHOTO: STAR

ering Sunday.

They sat together 10 days after the Nimtoli inferno, which mainly intensified due to a chemical store in a building. Over 100 permanent residents including representatives of the Panchayat, a traditional

social body that resolves social disputes, sat in the meeting to find possible ways to ensure safety in the days ahead.

They fear a reoccurrence of similar chemical explosion and fire, as most of the buildings in the area have stores of flammable chemicals or factories of various products on the ground floors.

"We are living on bombs," said Mohammad Shahid, a middle-aged resident of the area. Explosions may occur, and fire may erupt anytime in the factories and stores of flammable goods, he added.

"We should take lessons from the Nimtoli incident," said Abdur Razzak, a senior resident

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Top floor of tilted building demolished

25 tin-shed illegal structures at Begunbari also removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished the top floor of a four-storey tilted building at Begunbari in the capital as part of its ongoing drive.

Two eviction teams of Rajuk also demolished around 25 makeshift structures in city's Gulshan and Begunbari areas.

An eviction team of Rajuk knocked down the top floor of a four-storey tilted building erected illegally at Begunbari. The building is close to the five-storey building that collapsed on June 3 and claimed 25 lives.

The team also pulled down three two-storeyed tin-shed houses erected along the Begunbari canal (Hatirjheel Development Project) in the area, said Shaiful Islam, authorised officer of Rajuk, who supervised the drive.

Another team comprised of Rajuk Superintendent Engineer Anwar Hossain, Executive Engineer Nurul Islam pulled down a

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