

YUNNAN GOVERNOR ARRIVES ON AUG 28

Road, rail link, trade to dominate talks

REZAUL KARIM

Regional connectivity, particularly setting up of Chittagong-Kunming road and rail-link, expansion of trade and commerce and joint efforts to curb poverty will dominate talks during a three-day visit of Chinese Yunnan Governor Qin Guangrong to Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invited Governor Qin during her visit to Kunming in March this year.

Five agreements in the fields of agriculture, education, energy, tourism and establishing friendship with Yunnan are expected to be signed during his visit beginning August 28.

The relation between the two countries has reached a new height following Sheikh Hasina's visit to

China in March. After her visit, China sent its Vice President Xi Jinping to Bangladesh in June, sources said.

Official sources said Bangladesh is currently giving utmost importance to regional and international connectivity and has taken up appropriate steps to establish road and rail link with Asiad Highway.

As part of that link, Bangladesh is trying to connect road and rail with Kunming, which will directly join Bangladesh and China. Bangladesh thinks China has a major role to play in the rail and road link as the economic super power has such strength and capacity.

Hasina, during her visit to Kunming, said, "Yunnan province authorities also have a significant role to set up direct link with

Bangladesh." Yunnan, one of China's most environmentally and culturally diverse provinces, is located at the foot of the Himalayan Mountains and is working to become China's "sustainable province."

Foreign ministry officials said Governor Qin, during his talks with Bangladesh leaders, would also discuss about clean and renewable energy development.

They said the governor would hold separate meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Kader and Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni.

Chinese embassy sources said Yunnan province proposed signing

of five Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Bangladesh. Under the MoUs, Yunnan province will provide 20 scholarships to Bangladeshi students in different universities and colleges from next year.

The scholarship will cover entire cost of the students, including tuition fees, costs of accommodation and meals, health insurance and airfare for travelling to Bangladesh-Kunming-Bangladesh.

Besides, the province will allow Bangladeshi students to go there for higher studies on their own cost every year. In that case, the Yunnan province will give scholarships to five students among each 100.

Moreover, the Yunnan province is willing to establish an institute for science and technological research

in Bangladesh after the name of Chinese philosopher Confucius. A MoU is expected to be signed during the governor's visit to Dhaka.

Under the proposed MoU on tourism, the Yunnan province will offer training to the officials, arrange fairs in Yunnan and Bangladesh, extend support to the tourists and businessmen engaged in tourism industry and exchange of information related to each others tourism and place of attractions.

To establish friendship, the province also proposed establishing provincial friendship between Yunnan and Chittagong. The draft of the MoU stated that both Yunnan and Chittagong would cooperate with each other for development in the areas of trade, economy, culture, sports and tourism.



Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar and his Director Shykh Siraj call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. They hand over DVDs of seven movies produced by Impress Telefilm and telecast by Channel i to the prime minister. The premier told them that her government believes in freedom of media. She urged private TV channels to depict creeds and culture of Bangalees and history of the War of Liberation.



Mirpur and Dhanmondi 27 roads from Sobhanbag to Asad Gate in the city go under water after heavy rains yesterday causing sufferings to pedestrians, inset.

Staff of 3 bodies of power to get increased salary

BSS, Dhaka

The ministry of power, energy and mineral resources yesterday approved the proposal for increasing salary of the officials and employees of three utility agencies under power division.

The salary will be increased by 60 to 66 percent, which would be effective soon, official sources said.

The officials and employees of three utility agencies - Dhaka Power Distribution Company (Dpdc), West Zone Power Distribution Company (Wzpdco) and Ashuganj Wzpdco - would get the benefit of the salary hike, a senior official of the ministry told yesterday.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Enamul Haque chaired the meeting held at the power division where the proposal to increase salary was approved.

Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad, secretary of power division and senior officials were present at the meeting.

MOB KILLS MENTALLY CHALLENGED WOMAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mentally challenged woman was beaten to death as a child abductor suspect in master pole area of the city on Tuesday night.

Sources said the unidentified woman around 40, had been living in the area since long. Locals caught her around 10:30pm on Tuesday, claiming she had cut-off heads in her bag.

After beating her to death, the mob dumped her body in a nearby canal.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge of Bakolia Police Station Mahbulul Haque said the deceased was mentally ill and known to the locals.

A case was filed accusing over 1,000 anonymous persons while four persons, Nasir,

Kabir, Malek and Akter, were arrested in this connection, added the OC.

A female beggar was beaten to death at Bardaitila and three others were injured in three separate incidents of mob beating following rumours of child abduction on Saturday and Sunday.

A press release of police headquarters yesterday described the recent panic regarding child abduction as rumour, since police found no evidence of such incidents.

Innocent people are falling victim to mob beating out of suspicion, which is creating panic among school students across the country.

People are requested to inform local police stations regarding the persons who spread rumours. Police units across the country are on alert over the issue, added the release.

Khaleda attends IOJ Iftar

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia attended IOJ party of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) yesterday.

IOJ, a partner of the BNP-led four-party alliance, hosted the Iftar at the city's Hotel Purbani.

IOJ Chairman Mufti Fazlul Huq Amine and Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami received the guests.

Khaleda Zia exchanged pleasantries with the leaders of the four-party alliance and likeminded political parties who attended the Iftar.

A munajat was offered before breaking the fast seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the country and its people and Muslim Umma and also for protection to Islam from all kinds of conspiracies.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Jamaat-e-Islami acting Ameer Mokbul Ahmed, acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam and BNP Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun, attended the Iftar mahfil.

16 held for mugging, extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 16 men including three students on Tuesday night and yesterday morning in connection with mugging, extortion, and robbery in the capital.

Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said they arrested four men in Kallyanpur and seized a private car along with a knife, a machete, and ointment (used to cause burning sensation in eye) from them yesterday morning.

The arrestees used to target people at different bus stands, and then follow and mug them,

said OC Wazed.

OC Iqbal Hossain of Pallabi Police Station said they seized two pistols, a revolver, seven rounds of bullet, and two machetes after arresting 12 men including seven teenagers in Pallabi on Tuesday night.

The teenagers include three students -- college-going Enayet Karim Moon, and school-going Mohammad Hasan and Abdur Rahim Babu.

An Italian made pistol and two rounds of bullet were seized from Enayet Karim, police said.

Police arrested five men in cooperation with local residents when the miscreants entered a house at B-Block of Mirpur Section-11 for robbery.

Plants, agri equipment for landless in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of the Terokhada upazila of Khulna demanded necessary initiatives to end water logging of the area for better agricultural production.

They placed the demand at the plants and agricultural equipment distribution ceremony at a local primary school premises yesterday, said a press release.

Ashroy Foundation, a non-government organisation, with the financial help of European Union (EU) under United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) management, distributed plants and agricultural equipments among 660 landless and marginal farmers of the area.

Chaired by Ashray Foundation Executive Director Momota Begum, the distribution ceremony was addressed by Terokhada upazila parishad Chairman Sharfuddin Biswas Bachchu, EU head of section Koen Duchateau, EU food security programme officer Donel Rozario, Johan WILLERT from Embassy of SWEDEN, FAO Senior Emergency Coordinator in Bangladesh Zein Muzairil, Terokhada upazila Livestock Officer Shishir Kumar Biswas and upazila Agriculture Officer Sudhendu Shekhor Malakar.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of advocate Chittaranjan Das, Rotarian and former member of Bangladesh Law Commission.

On the occasion, a religious programme will be held at his residence in the port city.

Chittaranjan was involved in various cultural movements including celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in Chittagong in 1961. He was actively involved in different cultural bodies including Arya Sangeet Samity, one of the oldest music training organisations in this sub-continent.



Malaysian High Commissioner Jamaluddin bin Sabeh makes a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office yesterday.

BNP leader Samsul Haque passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Advocate Samsul Haque, former BNP lawmaker and former Satkhira district BNP president passed away due to cardiac arrest at Satkhira Islami Bank Community Hospital on August 24 at the age of 82.

He left behind four sons to mourn his death.

He joined the language movement in 1952 while he was a student of Jagannath College in Dhaka.

Samsul Haque, veteran politician and social worker, was elected Satkhira District Bar Association president several times.

Satkhira District Bar Association President and General Secretary, Shah Alam and Amjad Hossain conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.



WEATHER

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thunders accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna division in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:38am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Dhaka.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)

Advertisement for Ultra mobile broadband. Features: 3GB FREE + 50% off on subscription fee. Price: Tk. 2,990. Includes details for Pre-paid and Post-paid plans.