



Nagorik Uddyog and Partnership of Women in Action form a human chain in front of the city's National Museum yesterday demanding formulation of an effective policy to stop all forms of violence against domestic workers. (Story on Page 2)

PHOTO: STAR

Mosharraf warns against future poll influence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said his party would go for tougher movement if the government wants to influence the municipal elections in the remaining three divisions scheduled for January 17 and 18.

Addressing a rally at the city's Muktangan yesterday, the BNP leader alleged that the government had influenced the elections in Barisal seeing the overwhelming victory of the BNP supported candidates in Rajshahi division.

BNP backed candidates have done well in the municipalities of Rajshahi and Rangpur but only one BNP supported candidate won out of the 19 municipalities in Barisal division.

"BNP will give answers in a befitting manner taking the people of the country if the government wants to influence the elections in the municipalities of Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions," he said. Dhaka city unit BNP organised the rally demanding whereabouts and release of ward councillor Chowdhury Alam who has been missing for 200 days.

BNP says the law enforcement agency picked up the councillor of ward no 56 from his house and since then he has been missing.

She suspended police officers on that incident but did nothing when a Juba Dal leader was killed, said Mosharraf at the rally.

Presiding over the rally Dhaka City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka said the home minister and the officers in the administration will have to face trial if they fail to give the whereabouts of Alam.

Knowledge exchange to promote relations

Says Chinese ambassador

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exchange of knowledge and wisdom between Bangladesh and China will enhance mutual understanding and promote diplomatic relations between the two, said Zhang Xianyi, ambassador of People's Republic of China yesterday.

"The bilateral relationship has become a mode of friendship between the two countries with different social system and culture. I believe exchange of knowledge and culture will promote fraternity between the two countries," he said.

Zhang was speaking as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of a book styled 'Revisiting China after 32 Years', authored by Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud, at the National Press Club in the city.

He also announced to increase the number of scholarship for Bangladeshi students to China from 70 to 100 annually.

Last year, China-Bangladesh relations elevated to a higher level and the two

decided to establish a closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation from strategic perspectives and mutual benefits, he said.

Addressing the function, former Dhaka University (DU) vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Moniruzzaman Miah termed the book an account of political, economic and cultural scenario of China's past and present.

"The gradual change of Chinese economy was excellently described here," he added.

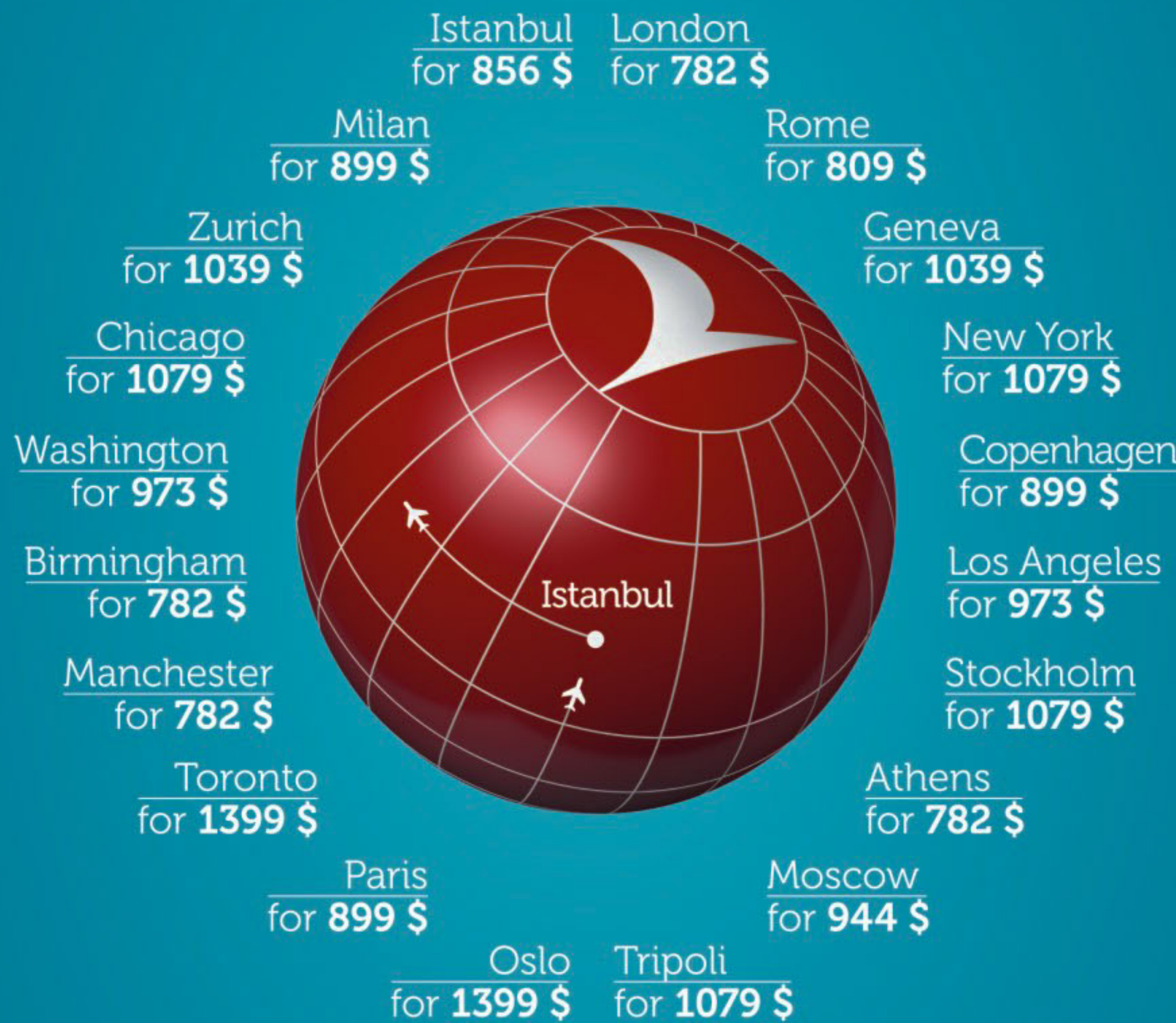
Another former DU VC Prof Emazuddin Ahmed sought more cooperation from the Chinese government for qualitative improvement of Bangladesh's academic and intellectual arena.

The author Hasna said social and cultural norms; values and behaviour pattern of the Chinese encouraged her to write the book.

Former ambassador and chairman of Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies Ashfaqur Rahman, weekly Holiday Editor Sayed Kamaluddin and journalist Mahfuzullah also spoke at the function.

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