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Modi takes home \$22b China deals

Ends his first 3-day tour

AFP, Shanghai

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi got down to business on the final day of his trip to China on yesterday, saying his country was open for investment as firms signed deals worth more than \$22 billion.

"Let us work together in mutual interest and for progress and prosperity of our great countries," Modi told executives from 200 Chinese and Indian companies at a business forum in the Chinese commercial hub Shanghai. "Now India is ready for business."

The nationalist leader was on the final day of a three-day trip to his fellow Asian giant, as the two jockey for regional influence and India's trade deficit with China balloons.

Despite his hardline reputation, Modi has moved to engage with Beijing since his election last year, and he was looking for an economic boost from the visit, seeking to deliver on election promises for foreign investment.

China is India's biggest trading partner with two-way commerce totalling \$71 billion in 2014. But India's trade deficit with China has soared from just \$1 billion in 2001-02 to more than \$38 billion last year, Indian figures show.

Indian embassy trade counsellor Namgya Khanpa said the 21 agreements signed at the Shanghai event were "worth over \$22 billion", with another five exchanged earlier.

Many of the contracts were for Chinese banks to finance

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A major portion of the river Mahananda has been turned into a paddy field near the Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge in Chapainawabganj. A tributary of the Padma, the river keeps drying up because of barrages, including Farakka, on the Indian side. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MAHMUDUL HAQUE

Reject those involved in destructive politics: PM

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people to reject those



involved in the politics of destruction and hand over them to law enforcers, saying the government is determined to take stern action against the evil forces.

Hasina was addressing a rally on Chapainawabganj Government College ground.

The PM said the BNP-Jamaat nexus was always engaged in the politics of destruction and killing. "We want to teach them a good lesson so that they never try to do such politics."

Describing BNP and Jamaat as the synonym of destruction, terrorism and killing, Hasina said, "This

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TOP QUOTE

"Litigants lose in 60 to 70 percent cases only because of mistakes by their lawyers."

CHIEF JUSTICE
SURENTRA KUMAR SINHA
AT A LAWYERS' PROGRAMME AT SCBA AUDITORIUM IN THE CAPITAL



PRAYER TIMING
MAY 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-00
JAMAAT	4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thailand ready to help resolve crisis

THE NATION/ AGENCIES

The Thai government yesterday confirmed its readiness to work with the international community in solving the problem relating to boat people from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

However, deputy government spokesman Maj Gen Sansern Kaewkamnerd rejected a proposal for Thailand to set up shelters for such illegal migrants.

He cited security concerns and possible violation of law for the rejection.

The Thai government will host an international conference on "unusual" migration in the Indian Ocean on May 29 in Bangkok, Sansern said yesterday.

He said senior officials from 15 countries affected by the problem would be invited to take part in the conference. The countries include Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

The US and international organisations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) would also be invited as observers at the meeting, the spokesman said.

Sansern said all the problems should be tackled at their root cause, to prevent people taking such journeys on boats in the Andaman.

"Thailand has a clear standpoint of coordinating with the international community in attempting to solve this problem," he said.

"We have always helped illegal migrants on humanitarian grounds. But the government also needs to protect our people. We have no policy of allowing migrants to settle in Thailand."

He said setting up shelters and finding work for illegal migrants was not the right solution to the problem.

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Do not push back boats

US urges Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand as migrants drifting at sea turned away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States has urged the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to refrain from pushbacks of new boats with Bangladeshi migrants and Rohingyas at sea.

"We urge the countries of the region to work together quickly, first and foremost, to save the lives of migrants now at sea who are in need of an immediate rescue effort," said Jeff Rathke, spokesperson for the US Department of State.

"This is an emergency that US believes needs to be addressed with appropriate speed and resolve through a regionally coordinated effort to save lives of the thousands of vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers," he said.

At a daily briefing in Washington on Friday, the spokesperson said they were concerned over the urgent situation faced by thousands of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants at sea in Southeast Asia.

He said the (US) secretary called his Thai

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Dinosaur that could smell fear

MAIL ONLINE

Researchers have identified a new species of dinosaur with a "supersense".

Closely related to the Velociraptor, the group of creatures made infamous by the movie "Jurassic Park", the newly named species was able to use its sense of smell to sniff out predators.

The fossil -- part of the dinosaur's skull -- actually represents a brand new species, which researchers call Saurornitholestes sullivani.

Steven Jasinski, a doctoral student in the School of Arts & Sciences' Department of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania discovered the new species while investigating a specimen originally assigned to a previously known species.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Salahuddin 'wants to go to Singapore' for treatment

STAR REPORT

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, now at a Shillong hospital, has expressed his willingness to go to Singapore for better treatment, said his party colleague who visited him yesterday.

"He will appeal to the Indian government for his better treatment in Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital from where he received treatment for his heart disease in January," BNP Assistant Office Secretary Abdul Latif Jony told The Daily Star over the phone.

Jony said Salahuddin had told him that he could not sleep for the last two nights due to increased ailments.

"He has also developed acute skin diseases in one of his legs for staying in an unhealthy condition in a dark small room over the last two months," he added.

Ghyasuddin Ahmed, the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Guardians gathering on the premises of Mohammadpur Preparatory School & College yesterday demonstrate against alleged sexual assault of a first-grader girl.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Uproar at city school over 'sexual assault'

Staff suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of capital's Mohammadpur Preparatory Higher Secondary School yesterday suspended the rector of its girls' wing and two male staffs for "negligence" in duty amid uproar over alleged sexual assault on a grade-I student by a male staff.

The decision came after several hundred angry guardians and former students demonstrated on the school premises since morning, demanding a fair probe into the allegations and punishment to the culprit.

They alleged that Zeenatun Nesa, rector of the girls' wing, made derogatory remarks following the allegations of sexual assault, and didn't cooperate with them when enquired about the incident.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Four held over murder of Ctg bank guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In separate drives, police have arrested four people for their alleged involvement in the killing of a bank's security guard at Muradpur in the port city.

On May 8, criminals slit Mohammad Ibrahim's throat inside Al-Arafah Islami Bank's Muradpur branch.

The four arrestees are Mohammad Sagar, 25, of Habiganj, Mohammad Mahbulul, 26, of Kishoreganj, Gias Uddin, 30, of Chittagong, and Majharul Islam Arif, 24, of Comilla.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandol says a motorcycle, three sharp weapons, an iron rod used in the killing and the victim's cell phone have also been recovered as per the fours' confessional statements.

On May 9, Ali Newaz, operation manager of the branch, filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station over the incident, accusing three unknown criminals.

At a press conference in the CMP headquarters yesterday, the CMP boss said acting on a tip-off, police first detained Gias from the city's Shah Amanat Market on Friday and then arrested Arif from Bakalia Bagarbil area.

Mahbulul and Sagar were arrested from their relatives' houses in Comilla the same day, he added.

Police were conducting drives to nab two other alleged killers -- Raihan and Masud, CMP Commissioner Jalil said.

During preliminary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that six persons were involved in the incident. They had made the plan to loot the bank around a month ago and visited the bank several times before accordingly, the

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