

Hasina seeks more Chinese investment

Meets visiting Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Kong Xuanyou
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought more Chinese investment in the country's various sectors to accelerate the development efforts.

The prime minister came up with the call when visiting Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Kong Xuanyou met her at her office in the capital.

Her Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting. Terming the existing Bangladesh-China relations wonderful, Hasina thanked Xuanyou for his country's continued support to the development efforts of Bangladesh.

Referring to the Chinese president's upcoming visit to Bangladesh, she said her government was waiting to receive Xi Jinping.

The Chinese assistant minister said he had fruitful discussions with the Bangladesh foreign secretary about increasing the Bangladesh-China cooperation in days ahead.

He said his country would speed up work for implementing the major agreements and MoUs signed with Bangladesh government through discussions.

Xuanyou also assured Hasina that China would cooperate with Bangladesh to help attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Lauding the current socioeconomic development of Bangladesh, the Chinese Assistant Minister termed it "remarkable" to achieve 7.05 percent GDP growth in the current fiscal year despite sluggish world economy.

About the regional cooperation initiatives like BCIM-EC, Hasina said this would help increase trade and commerce and it would open up a new door in the region.

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Police conduct a security search with sniffer dogs at the capital's Ramna Batamul yesterday ahead of Pehela Baishakh being celebrated today.

Meet unemployed nurses' just demand

NHRC chief Mizan urges PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday requested the prime minister and the ministry concerned to meet unemployed nurses' "just" demand for recruitment based on year of graduation, merit, and seniority instead of through exams.

Meeting the nurses who were staging a sit-in for the 10th consecutive day in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, he questioned the necessity for changing the recruitment system, saying two different laws cannot be used in this context.

The demonstrations, under the banners of Bangladesh Diploma Bekar (unemployed) Nurses' Association, and Bangladesh Basic Graduate Nurses' Society, were sparked by a Bangladesh Public Service Commission March 28 circular to recruit 3,616 senior nurses.

It said applicants below the age of 36 and attaining Bachelor of Science and diploma in nursing had to take an exam.

The association secretary general, Faruk Hossain, said many like him could not apply in the last three recruitment phases for the previous system's seniority clause and now it would be unjust if they had to compete with juniors.

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's previous announcement on recruiting 10,000 nurses, Mizanur said it was unexpected and unwarranted that nurses had to launch a movement as there was a huge shortage in light of World Health Organization-recommended doctor to nurse ratio.

He said if the previous system was not followed, they would be compelled to believe there was an ill-motive,

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Stalking makes Sylhet girl quit school

Her uncle was killed for protesting, says family pointing out police indifference to their security despite filing of GD, case; police deny allegation

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

"I want to go to school and lead a secure life, but I am worried about being stalked, kidnapped and killed," said Poly Roy, a ninth-grader of Kishori Mohan Girls' School in Sylhet city, whose dream is to complete higher study and get a job, thus supporting her middle-income household.

But stalking and harassment on her way to school is gnawing away at her dream, making her feel hopeless and frustrated.

"We used to live at Mirabazar in the

city. One day I came to know that I was being stalked by Sumon Das, a worker of Sunbest Furniture shop in the area. After a few days, he began teasing me on roads and proposed to me. When I informed my uncle of the incident, he discussed it with the shop's owner," said Poly.

Later, her family shifted to Majortila area considering Sumon would no longer disturb her.

But she is still trapped in nightmare with things staying the same and the stalker becoming even more ferocious.

"On October 15 last year, Sumon attempted to kidnap me with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, but I could luckily escape with the help of some friends who thwarted the attempt. My father, Biswajit Roy, filed a general diary (GD) with Kotwali Police Station the same day, following the incident," said Poly, adding that she quit school since police were yet to take any action against the stalker.

On March 16 this year, her uncle, Biplob Bikol Roy, went to Mirabazar to

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JS body questions rice import

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday raised questions on the government's initiative to import rice when the country has enough production of the staple.

The parliamentary standing committee on agriculture at a meeting asked the minister concerned to enquire into the matter and inform the Jatiya Sangsad watchdog in its next meeting likely to be held within a month, JS sources said.

"The committee wanted to know from the agriculture minister [Matia Chowdhury] why the government is importing rice," Mokbul Hossain, chief of the committee, told The Daily Star.

Matia Chowdhury, also a member of the committee, said it was the commerce ministry not the agriculture was involved in it.

Abdur Razzaque, another member of the committee, said there was no enough space in the government warehouses to accommodate rice presently produced in the country.

"The committee recommends that the government should take measures immediately to stop import of rice to save farmers," said Razzaque, also former food minister.

The ruling Awami League MP said the minister agreed with that. "If necessary, we will seek the prime minister's intervention to stop import of rice," he added.

Tarana gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Posts and Communications Tarana Halim received a death threat last evening.

A youth wearing a red T-shirt gave a gift box to the security guard of the Gulshan residence of the state minister, Tarana quoted the guard as saying, while talking to The Daily Star.

A note reading, "Now it is your turn, get ready for death," along with a burial shroud, perfume, and rosewater were inside the box, said Tarana.

Immediately after handing over the box, the person went away, she added.

Gulshan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sirajul Islam said the name of a mayor was mentioned on the box as the sender.



Columnist Syed Abul Maksud speaks at a discussion, organised by Daily Star Books, on two books, "Abul Mansur Ahmader Shreshthagolpo" and "Abul Mansur Ahmad Smarakgrantha", at Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery of the National Museum yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Spread work of Abul Mansur Ahmad

Call comes from discussion on two books about the litterateur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for spreading the literary work of Abul Mansur Ahmad across the country to eliminate fundamentalism.

"Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote against the then communal forces, against whom we are fighting now," said cultural activist Golam Qudus.

His write-ups will help this generation break the walls of prejudice, he told the discussion, organised by Daily Star Books on two books, "Abul Mansur Ahmader Shreshthagolpo" and "Abul Mansur Ahmad Smarakgrantha", at Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery of the National Museum.

The speakers also said Abul Mansur Ahmad was not only a famous politician or journalist but also a magician of words. He never hurt anyone personally through his writings but never spared the mistakes of the government even

though he was in the administration, they added.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said Abul Mansur Ahmad had not only stood against fundamentalism through his writings but also was one of the pioneers of the Muslim journalists of this country.

"He never criticised religion but attacked very sharply the people who were doing business with religion by making false interpretations," said Shakriti Noman, asking the writers of the present time to follow the way he criticised fundamentalism.

"The aim of his writings was to refine the human mind," said Prof Bishwajit Ghose, adding that Abul Mansur Ahmad made satire writings an "art" in literature.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, senior journalist and eminent lyricist KG Mostafa, researcher Chengis Khan, and editors of the two books Nurul Amin and Emran Mahfuz also spoke, among others.

RAMNA TERROR ATTACK HC likely to start hearing death reference, appeals in May

Says Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is likely to start hearing the death reference and appeals in the Ramna Batamul bomb blast case in the first week of May.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Amir Hossain might begin the hearing on May 5, said Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir, adding that the death reference and appeals have been included in the hearing list of the HC bench as per sequence.

A Dhaka court on June 23, 2014 handed down death penalty to 8 militants of Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji), including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan Munshi, for killing 10 people in the attack on the Chhayanaut function

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