

Bhutan to facilitate entry of Bangladeshi products

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bhutan will facilitate entry of Bangladeshi products into its market and agreed to further promote trade and investments between the two countries.

The response came after Bangladesh had offered to export more products such as readymade garment, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, jute and allied products, leather goods, toiletries, and agricultural produce to Bhutan.

The two countries at their summit-level meeting on Tuesday in Thimphu, emphasised the advantages of sub-regional cooperation in the areas of power, water resources, and connectivity for mutual benefits.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay also recognised the importance of enhancing regional connectivity, and they agreed to work bilaterally and sub-regionally towards that end.

The two countries issued a 26-point joint statement yesterday on the state visit of the prime minister of Bangladesh to Bhutan on April 18-20, when the two countries agreed to cooperate in a wide range of areas, including hydro-power, water

resources, trade and commerce, connectivity, tourism, culture, education, health, ICT, and agriculture.

Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday ending her 3-day visit.

The two prime ministers welcomed the signing of MoU on Use of Inland Waterways for Transportation of Bilateral Trade and Transit Cargoes between the Government of Bhutan and the Government of Bangladesh for providing connectivity with Chittagong and Mongla ports.

They expressed hope that this will open up further opportunities of bilateral trade between the two countries and beyond.

They emphasised the advantages of sub-regional cooperation in the areas of power, water resources, and connectivity for mutual benefit.

They also welcomed the proposed trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Bangladesh, Bhutan and India for cooperation in the field of hydro-electric power. They expressed the hope that this MoU could be signed when leaders of all

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Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay sees off his counterpart Sheikh Hasina at Paro Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: SPID

Ex-Bhutanese king lauds Hasina's role

UNB, Thimphu

Lauding highly the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in establishing peace and ensuring progress in South Asia region, former Bhutanese king Jigme Singye Wangchuck has said she is moving Bangladesh forward maintaining equal friendship with other countries.

The former Bhutanese king and also the father of incumbent King Jigme Khesar Namgyel mentioned this when he met Hasina on Wednesday evening at Hotel Le Meridien Thimphu.

"The other global leaders have many things to learn from you (Sheikh Hasina)," said the former king.

Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque and PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim jointly briefed reporters yesterday about the outcome of the meeting. PM's Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam was present.

Mentioning the philosophy of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's "Friendship to all, malice to none", Hasina said her government has also been following that philosophy and principles.

Wangchuck opined that the sub-regional cooperation would lead this sub-region into a new path of potentials where the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very much prominent.

The prime minister also went to the palace of the incumbent King Jigme Khesar Namgyel after being invited.

Besides, Bhutanese doctors and students who had studied in Bangladesh met the prime minister on Wednesday.

Hasina returned home yesterday morning after wrapping up her three-day state visit to Bhutan.

Brac undertakes haor relief programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac will carry out a month-long emergency relief programme to help people in the haor (low-lying wetland) area hit by flash-floods.

Under the initiative, worth Tk 15 crore, Brac will support 50,000 families to cope with the immediate impact of the calamity.

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BANGLADESH POLICE WOMEN AWARD-2017 21 personnel, two organisations win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In recognition of dedication and excellence in their profession, 21 female police personnel and two welfare organisations for them were awarded the Bangladesh Police Women Award-2017 yesterday.

The Police Headquarters presented the award at Police Staff College in the capital's Mirpur.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was present

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Govts unable to meet growing higher education demand

Says Unesco

UNB, Dhaka

Governments across the world are struggling to keep pace with rapidly rising demand of higher education as many families cannot afford it, shows a Unesco paper released yesterday.

The new policy paper from the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report and the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) at Unesco reveals that the number of university-level students doubled to 207 million between 2000 and 2014.

The paper sets out a series of measures

to make higher education more equitable and affordable, including ensuring that student loan repayments do not exceed 15 percent of their monthly incomes. Anything more threatens to leave the disadvantaged behind.

Six specific recommendations are given to policymakers to ease the situation for all and help ensure both good policy and effective implementation.

These are keeping an eye on the target and make sure those who need help the most are getting it, guarantee equity and affordability in regulatory frameworks, step up monitoring and

establish national agencies to ensure equal opportunities, use different admissions criteria to respond to different individuals' needs, establish an agency to coordinate different forms of student aid, such as loans and grants; and limiting student loan repayments to 15 percent of their annual income.

Equitable and affordable higher education is essential to achieving the SDGs. The demand for higher education will continue to rise and, as it does, governments must respond by ensuring that all groups can access affordable, quality programmes, said the policy paper.

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HAOR EMBANKMENT CORRUPTION Culprits have been identified

Says Maya; disaster and relief ministry secretary's comments spark protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The culprits behind the disaster in haor areas have been identified and one of them has already been withdrawn from his position, said Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya yesterday.

In a meeting of Sylhet District Disaster Management Committee, the minister said the negligence in constructing the embankments in haor areas have caused damages to crops.

The culprits behind the negligence are a few in number and can be detected easily, he said, without elaborating further.

On April 15, Afsar Uddin, an executive engineer of Water Development Board in Sunamganj, was withdrawn from Sunamganj and attached to the WDB head office in Dhaka, amid allegations of corruption in the construction and repairing works of the embankment surrounding the haor areas.

The minister said the farmers will not suffer anymore as the government will be by their side until fresh crops are cultivated again.

Shah Kamal, secretary to the ministry, and Rahat Anwar, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, were present at the meeting.

The Minister Also Inquired About The Flood Situation in

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Man gets life for killing Korean woman in 2011

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to life in jail in connection with the murder of a Korean citizen in Dhaka's Gulshan area in November 2011.

Judge Abdur Rahman Sarder of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 gave the verdict in presence of the convict and fined him Tk 10,000 and an additional year in prison in default.

The convict Manik Sarker was an employee of a Korean restaurant named Arian Korean run by Ro Jong Sing, 69, and her husband.

On November 9, 2011, the convict stabbed her indiscriminately, leaving her critically injured, according to the case statement.

Later, she was sent to Korea for treatment. She succumbed to her injuries there on November 17 that year.

Perk Jang Siong, the victim's husband, filed a case with Gulshan Police Station on that day in connection with the murder.

During the investigation, Manik gave a confessional statement before a magistrate admitting his offence.

Police submitted a charge sheet against him on April 30, 2012. Manik was indicted in July the same year.

The murder was triggered by salary related issues and misconduct by the victim's daughter.

Manik was locked in an altercation with Ro on the day and he stabbed her, according to the verdict.

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