

China takes big stake in strategic port in Myanmar

REUTERS, Yangon
China has agreed to take a 70 percent stake in a strategically important sea port in Myanmar, at the lower end of a proposed route amid local concerns over Beijing's growing economic clout in Myanmar, a senior government official said.

O Maung, vice chairman of a government-led committee overseeing the project, said Myanmar had pushed for a bigger slice of the roughly \$7.2-billion deal in negotiations with the UK-based state, in negotiations with a consortium led by China's CITIC Group. Agreement was reached in September, he said.

Officials from Yangon and communities across Myanmar think that the previous 85/15 percent agreement is unfair to Myanmar. People disagree with the plan and the government is now trying to make a better deal," he said.

The deal has been seen to be in the office of Myanmar's Vice President Henry Van Thio for approval, O Maung said. But the two sides have not yet reached an agreement on financing details, he added, saying further negotiations were needed to move the project forward.

Beijing-based CITIC, China's biggest and oldest financial conglomerate, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Shan Shuang, executive president of CITIC Myanmar, told the Myanmar Times in an interview published on Monday that the company had agreed to a 30 percent stake, but also said more negotiations were needed to iron out the financing details.

O Maung said he reported that state-owned CITIC had proposed taking a 70-85 percent stake in the Kyauk Pyu port, a part of China's ambitious "Belt and Road" infrastructure investment plan to deepen its links with economically troubled Asia and beyond.

China has been pushing for economic access to the deep sea port of Second ODI.

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the Bamaoh [field], implying that the Bamaoh Park field is in a state that Dhaka's famous Dhannondou venue is softer than the Bamaoh field. The comparison is not entirely without merit; much of the field is under covers, but the exposed areas are muddy and it is highly doubtful if the groundstaff can get it in playable condition by replanting it without some serious help from the sun.

The good news, however, is that the forecast for today is sunny with no chance of rain and although locals say that the forecasts here cannot be taken too seriously, it does seem to get some match time in after a dismal tour so far. The good news for the Tigers is that opener Tamim Iqbal, who missed the second Test and first ODI, seems to be on his way back and if that is the case, Bangladesh will have a good team to likely be unbeaten unchanged, with maybe Mehedi Hasan Miraz coming in for Tasnim Ahmed, depending on the pitch.

Delhi
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government who, as a humanitarian gesture, sent substantial relief materials for the forcibly displaced Rohingyas, by air and ship, and said, "We also count on India's continued support in the international arena for the early return of Rohingyas."

Referring to the vexed issue of Teesta water sharing, Ali said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after assuming power in 2009, took an initiative to break the deadlock by releasing Teesta.

The two countries also worked out a solution for an interim water-sharing agreement in 2011, but it could not be concluded due to the last-minute objection raised by the West-Bangaladesh relations covering various security, counter-terrorism, trade, transit, energy and sharing of waters of common rivers.

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500 yr-old

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Sadly, the mosque is situated beside the busy highway leading from Chittagong to the Indian border. Up to 400 cargo-laden trucks fly their route daily, and apart from the dust and noise, the vibration of so many vehicles adds significant stress to the foundations and walls of the mosque.

"A bypass road is urgently required to protect the mosque," says its Imam, Hizbulallah.

"While over the highway runs past the Chhoto Sona Masjid is at risk of damage," agrees the deputy assistant commissioner for ecology department in Chittagong, Md. Muzayyib Kabir. "Its days are numbered. Consequently we have asked the Roads and Highways Department to build a by-pass road away from the mosque."

The district's Roads and Highways Engineer, Md. Saifur Rahman Chakma is aware of the problem. "The road from Rajshahi to the Sonamasjid Land Port will be widened eventually to four lanes," he says. "At that time we will construct a bypass to protect the historic mosque." It can only be hoped the new road, once completed, will be a case of too little, too late.

Dhaka seventh

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Lima and the Mexico City were placed in fifth and sixth place overall in the list respectively.

However, London, Tokyo and Paris were ranked as the best of least dangerous cities for women respectively due to the cities' better scores on the four criteria, according to the result.

In a statement, the poll authority said, "We surveyed 380 experts in women's issues in the world's 19 C megacities, asking them to rank over 10 million people, to assess how well women are protected from sexual violence and harmful cultural practices, and whether they have access to good healthcare, education and economic opportunities."

"What this poll reveals - even in cities that performed well - is how much remains to be done before these vast cities can be considered safe for women, let alone places for women to 'fantasize' about," said Monica Vela, the CEO of Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"The results are a snapshot of the significant challenges women around the world face on a daily basis," she said, adding that the poll was conducted in London.

London became the best [19th in the list] megacity for women because of Britain's free National Health Service, as well as ranking first for economic opportunities, it said.

Paris ranked the second best, which became the worst overall [first in the list], said conditions for women in the city have deteriorated since the Arab Spring, according to the statement.

The capital of Egypt, the Arab world's largest city, ranked 10th in the criteria of harmful cultural practices for women, and the third place in terms of sexual harassment and violence, the statement said.

Paris ranked the fourth best overall, outperforming New York on a range of measures, and was named the most female-friendly city judged solely on protection against harmful cultural practices.

CJ's wife files

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month-long annual vacation. He spoke to reporters briefly in front of his Hare Road residence and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bengali, in which he said, "I am not fleeing. I'm come back. I'm a little embarrassed. I'm the guardian of the judiciary. I'm leaving for a brief period in the interest of the judiciary, and so the public interest is the best argument."

On October 2, the SC authorities in a letter informed President Abdul Hamid about the CJ's leave, according to Law Minister Anis Huj. Justice Sinha is now facing 11 allegations of mismanagement, misbehaviour and corruption, the SC said in a statement on Saturday.

The president last month informed the judges of the SC's Appellate Division about the allegations and the justice's resignation. He was appointed as the country's 21st CJ in January 2015. He is scheduled to go into retirement on January 31 next year, said SC sources.

He came under fire ever since the SC on August 1 released the full text of a public statement in which he announced, scolding the constitutional amendment that had empowered parliament to remove SC judges for misconduct or incapacity.

The top court in its full verdict made it clear that the amendment was a critical of the country's present political culture.

AL won't budge on polls

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During the two-and-a-half hour election rally, the party also demanded that armed forces personnel be deployed during the election and be provided with magistracy power.

Today, the AL would take a stand against such demands given the constituencies and army deployment. AL General Secretary Obaidul Qader would lead a 22-member party team to today's talks, beginning at 11:00am, at Nisibahan Bhaban in the capital.

Earlier on January 11, the party had placed another 11-point proposal during its dialogue with President Abdul Hamid on the formation of a new EC.

The party said the party secured the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies drawn before the 2008 election. Whereas, the AL is going to convey its opposition to the EC against the formation of the party secured a landslide victory with the existing one in that election.

According to AL sources, the party would pitch for evoting. If it is not possible to form a credible coalition, the party will request the commission to have the system introduced in some particular constituencies which are in city corporation areas.

The party is against introduction of the electronic voting machines (EVMs). The party fears the

Probe finds

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one of her classmates of murdering her daughter due to "family mismanagement" also prayed the court to relieve the late accused of the murder charges.

However, Mohamed Athif yesterday filed a petition with the court requesting it to "fast-track" the case. The report as he was yet to see it, said Assistant Public Prosecutor Mahfuzur Rahman.

The court fixed November 28 for holding hearings on the probe report and petition.

Raudha, who featured in Vogue India cover as a model, was found dead at her dormitory room at Islami Bank Medical College in Rajshahi on March 29.

On April 24, the CID exhumed Raudha's body from the grave and arranged a second autopsy. But the fresh autopsy could not find the cause of her death as the body had decomposed.

According to IO Asmaul, the forensic report of Raudha's laptop and mobile phone, prepared by the CID's Forensic Lab in Dhaka, found that she had a "close relationship" with her Malaysian boyfriend in London.

Mohamed Athif yesterday said, "There is evidence of murder. If the police claim it to be a suicide, they have to explain it properly."

Suicide attacks

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The police flattened a building and enabled gunmen to force their way inside the compound, according to officials and the interior ministry.

"Most of the victims are civilians who had come to the police headquarters to get their passports and national IDs," a statement from the Pakista government's office said.

A university student who was in class at the time said he heard "a big boom" which shook the building and shattered windows.

"As we were trying to find our way (out of the building) I heard a second blast and then the dust and dirt covered us in the class. Several of my classmates were wounded by broken glass," a news agency said.

The battle between the attackers, armed with guns and suicide vests, and security forces lasted around five hours before it ended with all five militants killed, officials said.

Photos posted on Twitter showed two large plumes of smoke rising above the city.

World MPs slam ethnic cleansing in Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

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Foreign minister

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He will also join the ASEM meeting after his less than 24-hour stay in Bangladesh, said the source.

Bangladesh will discuss issues of mutual interest, including the Rohingya crisis, during the visit.

The foreign minister's visit to Myanmar is part of a series of diplomatic efforts. Minister Sushma Swara is scheduled to arrive here on October 23 to attend a joint consultative commission meeting between Bangladesh and India, a senior official told IANS.

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Why suspended

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manufacturing unit in Paracetamol that killed 28 people in 2009.

The director general of the Directorate of Drug Administration (DGDA) has been asked to give the explanation in seven days regarding the matter.

The DGDA bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan passed the order following a petition by Manzil Murshid on behalf of Humayun Kabir, a doctor who alleged that the suspended two officials of the drug administration, including Shafulq Islam, in August 2016, issued an order for the suspension for negligence and inefficiency in dealing with the case filed for manufacturing toxic Paracetamol.

Shafulq applied to the Administration Appellate Tribunal-1 for the review of the suspension. The tribunal stayed his suspension and then he joined the office, he said.

Following the arguments, the HC yesterday halted the tribunal's order issued a restriction on Shafulq's employment and fixed October 26 for passing further order on this issue.

From June to August 2009, at least 10 people died from a mysterious disease of renal failure, allegedly caused by Rid Pharma's paracetamol syrups.

On July 22 the same year, the DGDA sealed off Rid's factory in BSCIC area of Brabhamnabad, following wide protests staged during the time. The factory was later closed down after the release of findings by the Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital physician Prof Mohammed Hanif concluding that Rid Pharma's Temset had a substance.

In August of 2009, Shafulq Islam, then superintendent of drug administration, filed the case with the Dhaka Drug Court against Rid Pharma.

In its judgment on November 28 last year, a Dhaka court acquitted all five, saying the prosecution utterly failed to prove the charges against them.

Two officials of the drug administration - Shafulq Islam and Altaf Hossain - were also suspended for knowingly violating due procedure of law and exhibited sheer negligence, inefficiency and incompetence in dealing with the case, the verdict had said.

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