

Dhaka-Beijing growing ties unstoppable, says Chinese vice minister

UNB, China
China wants to maintain good relations with Bangladesh and other South Asian countries for the sake of greater welfare of the people in the region, Chinese Vice Minister Zhou Xiang said yesterday.
"Though we've mountains in both countries, these couldn't put barrier to our growing relations," he told news agency UNB.
Mentioning Chinese President Xi Jinping's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative, Xiang said China maintains good relations with South Asian countries following the OBOR that says moving ahead together.
"Our government always attaches highest importance to South Asian countries."
Bangladesh and China are densely populated countries and both of them are working for people's welfare, he said.
"Bangladesh can take lessons from China's development experiences. But we don't impose anything on any country."
He also discussed how China became the second largest economy in the world from a poor country.
Xiang gave credit to the Communist Party of China (CPC) for the rapid development this country witnessed over the past decades.
The vice minister shed light on the country's reforms and open policy that are taking it forward. He said China will remain open to extend support to its friends like Bangladesh.
Terming Dhaka-Beijing relations very strong, he said the friendship is like the two

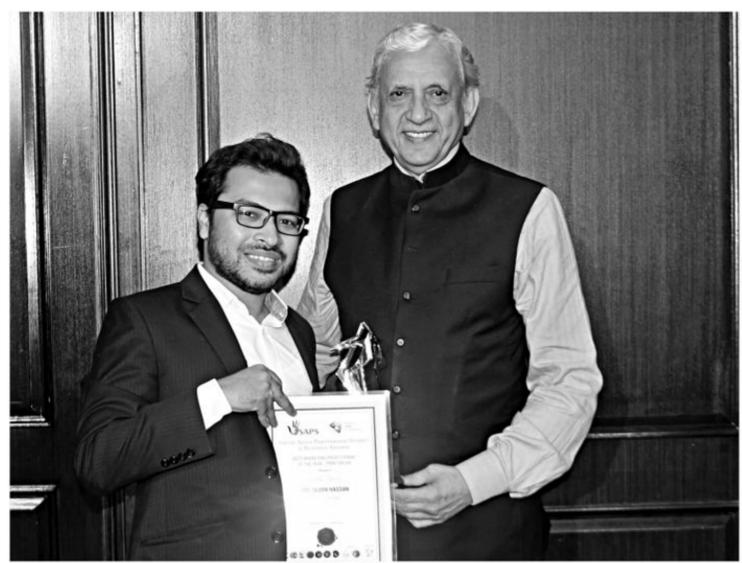
countries are drinking water from the same river.
The vice minister, however, did not want to make any comments on Rohingya issue saying it is a diplomatic issue.
He observed that the cultural ties and people-to-people contacts between the two countries have witnessed tremendous growth in recent times.
"I hope our friendship and love for each other will grow further in the days to come," Xiang said.
He termed the just concluded 19th CPC National Congress a 'milestone' which will help China move ahead with development goals.
Chinese President Xi Jinping's report at the landmark meeting of CPC has further boosted the confidence of foreign countries and organisations in China's development prospect and global role, political insiders say.
In the report unveiled at the opening session of the national congress, Xi unveiled China's future development and reiterated his country's aspiration to build a community with a shared future for mankind.
Earlier in the evening, the Chinese vice minister hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Bangladesh media delegation at Dolton International Hotel.
Hosne Ara Talukder, director for news at Bangladesh Betar, is leading the 12-member Bangladesh delegation.

Ctg income tax fair starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
A seven-day income tax fair will start in Chittagong's GEC Convention Centre tomorrow.
Mosharraf Hossain, minister for housing and public works, is scheduled to inaugurate the fair at 10am, according to the tax officials.
People can submit their tax return for 2017-18 in the fair, the officials said.
The registration for new taxpayers and re-registration for incumbent taxpayers could also be done in the e-tin booths of the fair, they said.
The taxpayers can pay taxes through e-payment and help desks will be set up there to provide necessary assistance in this regard.
Income tax could be paid in the booths of Sonali Bank and Janata Bank, the officials said.

Govt working hard to boost investment: Tofail

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said the government is trying hard to make Bangladesh an important destination for trade and investment in South Asia.
He made the comments at a roundtable titled "Towards making Bangladesh an important trade and investment destination in South Asia: challenges and policy options" organised by the Faculty of Business Studies, the University of Dhaka, at its conference hall.
The minister urged stakeholders to analyse trade and investment opportunities in Bangladesh and promote them at regional and international levels.
Md Shahidul Haque, foreign secretary, emphasised the importance of connectivity to improve the trade and investment situation.
Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said Bangladesh has shown tremendous progress in agriculture and exports.
Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, business faculty dean, and Prof Partho S Ghosh from Tufts University also spoke.



Tajdin Hassan, head of marketing at The Daily Star, receives the "Best Marketing Professional of the Year" award for the print media from Gowher Rizvi, prime minister's international affairs adviser, at South Asian Business Excellence Awards 2017 hosted by World HRD Congress and endorsed by Asian Confederation of Businesses at Le Meridien Dhaka on Sunday.

PHP's recycling yard gets international certification

STAR BUSINESS DESK
The recycling yard of Chittagong-based PHP Family has received a Statement of Compliance with the Hong Kong Convention, for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling.
This is the first Bangladeshi yard to gain the certification given by international classification society RINA, according to a press release.
"PHP Family yard has worked hard to improve their safety and environmental standards," said Anil Sharma, president and CEO of GMS, a cash buyer of ships for recycling.
"We spent around Tk 35 crore to make the shipyard compliant with the Hong Kong Convention guidelines," said Jahurul Islam Rinku, managing director of the recycling yard.

Sanofi declares 10pc dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Sanofi Bangladesh has recently declared 10 percent dividend for 2016.
The declaration came at the company's 53rd annual general meeting, Sanofi said in a statement yesterday.
Shah Md Aminul Haq, president of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, presided over the meeting.
"Accounts for the year ended on 31 December 2016 together with the auditors' report and the directors' report were presented to the shareholders of the company. The shareholders approved 10 percent dividend for the year 2016," said the statement.
The government holds a significant share of the company.
Muin Uddin Mazumder, managing director of Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd, was also present.

BB asks banks to tighten offshore lending

FROM PAGE B1
Currently, 36 of the 57 banks in the country are running offshore units as per a directive issued by the Banking Control Department of the BB on December 17, 1985.
The central bank is now working on issuing a fresh directive aiming to mitigate the risks of offshore operations in Bangladesh through strengthened monitoring and supervision.
The BB is also concerned about the mismatch in deposit and credit growth, said a senior official of a private bank.
At the meeting, bankers explained that the high credit growth is due to infrastructure and power project lending, he said.
Bankers were suggested to be

cautious about lending and bringing balance between deposit and credit growth, he added.
On July 30, the rate of deposit growth stood at 10.88 percent, down from 12.21 percent three months earlier. The deposit growth was 13.13 percent on December 31, 2016.
The deposits had a slower growth than that of the credit growth in the first seven months of the year as the depositors were discouraged to keep money with banks due to the low interest rates.
On the other hand, the overall credit growth as of July 27 stood at 17.16 percent, up from 15.90 percent on March 30. It was 15.32 percent on December 31, 2016.

Exports to UK beat Brexit fears

FROM PAGE B1
Recently, British retailers have increased the volume of sourcing from Bangladesh, he said.
The upward trend in the exchange rate of the pound sterling against the taka is also a major cause for the rise in exports from Bangladesh to the UK, said Abdus Salam Murshedy, a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.
The pound sterling was trading at Tk 109.44 yesterday. Sometimes, the amount goes above Tk 110 per pound sterling.
The exchange rate of the local currency hovered around Tk 95 and Tk 98 since Brexit vote in June 2016.
"The exporters' confidence received a boost because of the higher exchange rate of the pound sterling," Murshedy said.

Moreover, Bangladesh was able to ride out an image crisis in the garment sector after factory remediation, he said.
"Overall, European buyers are placing orders for higher volume of garment items as workplace safety has been ensured following the inspections," he said.
Although the UK market is attractive, it accounts for only 8-9 percent of total garment exports from Bangladesh, said Dhyana van der Pols, CEO of Nash International, which advises 200 European garment retailers that source \$200 million worth of apparel items from the country every year.
In an email interview, she said the average price level in the UK is extremely low in comparison with other EU markets and is under constant pressure.

"Traditionally, UK buyers tend to pay far less for similar products than the other EU retailers. This situation will aggravate further with Brexit, the plummeting of the pound sterling and the absence of a bilateral trade deal with Bangladesh."
Bilateral negotiations with the UK should start as soon as possible to secure a future export position or to prevent the current position from sliding further, van der Pols said.
The EU will shortly sign a free trade agreement with Vietnam and could reinstate GSP-plus trade privilege for Sri Lanka.
"Those market dynamics will again cause an alteration of sourcing dynamics and country shifts. The sourcing caravan is out of options for cheap labour so future trade deals and benefits between nations are a factor that should not be underestimated."

সাংস্কৃতিক অগ্রযাত্রায় নবতরঙ্গ

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

(অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়ঃ জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউট
১২৫/এ, দারুস সালাম, এ. ডব্লিউ. চৌধুরী রোড, ঢাকা-১২১৬)
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নং-বাচটেই-১২৬/প্রশ/টেলিভিশন-৪/২০১৭/৯০৮৬ তারিখঃ ২৯ অক্টোবর ২০১৭

টেলিভিশনে ক্যারিয়ার গঠনের সুযোগ
৪র্থ টেলিভিশন অনুষ্ঠান প্রযোজনা (ডিপ্লোমা) কোর্স

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট-এর এক বছর মেয়াদি '৪র্থ টেলিভিশন অনুষ্ঠান প্রযোজনা (ডিপ্লোমা) কোর্স'-এ ভর্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

কোর্সের পিরোনাম	ঃ '৪র্থ টেলিভিশন অনুষ্ঠান প্রযোজনা (ডিপ্লোমা) কোর্স' 4th Television Production (Diploma) Course.
কোর্সের মেয়াদ	ঃ এক বছর (১০ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭ থেকে ১০ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৮ পর্যন্ত) ছয় মাস মেয়াদে দুই সেমিস্টারে কোর্সটি সম্পন্ন হবে।
প্রশিক্ষণ সময়	ঃ পূর্ণকালীন (সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে বিকেল ৫:০০টা পর্যন্ত)। শুক্র ও শনিবার বন্ধ।
প্রশিক্ষণার্থীর যোগ্যতা	ঃ স্নাতক
বয়স	ঃ অনূর্ধ্ব ৪০ বছর।
প্রশিক্ষণার্থীর সংখ্যা	ঃ ২০ জন।
প্রশিক্ষণের বিষয়	ঃ টেলিভিশনের জন্য পাতালিপি ও চিত্রনাট্য রচনা, চিত্রগ্রহণ, আলোকসম্পাত, সম্পাদনা, পরিচালনাসহ অন্যান্য তাত্ত্বিক ও ব্যবহারিক বিষয়।
আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ ২৯ নভেম্বর ২০১৭। আবেদনপত্র অনলাইনে পূরণ করে জমা দিতে হবে। ওয়েবসাইট ঠিকানা www.bcti.gov.bd সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগেও নির্ধারিত ঠিকানায় আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। সেক্ষেত্রে, অনলাইন থেকে ভর্তি ফরম ডাউনলোড করে নিতে হবে।
সংযুক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি	ঃ ০২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি; শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, নাগরিকত্ব ও চারিত্রিক সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি।
বাছাই পরীক্ষা	ঃ লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে প্রার্থী তালিকা চূড়ান্ত করা হবে। পরীক্ষার তারিখ ০২ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।
প্রশিক্ষণ ফি	ঃ প্রতি সেমিস্টার ১৫,০০০/- টাকা (পনের হাজার টাকা মাত্র)। বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট-এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।

প্রধান নির্বাহী, বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট, অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়ঃ জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউট, ১২৫/এ, দারুস সালাম, এ ডব্লিউ চৌধুরী রোড, ঢাকা-১২১৬ বরাবর প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি সংগ্রহে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের ব্যাপারে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

মোঃ মনজুরুর রহমান
প্রধান নির্বাহী (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)

ও
অতিরিক্ত সচিব (প্রশাসন ও চলচ্চিত্র), তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
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জিডি-২৩১৫

Graft deters foreign investment

FROM PAGE B1
German Ambassador Thomas Prinz also made a similar comment last week, saying corruption in Bangladesh is the main barrier to attracting foreign investment from Germany.
Bernicat said a US delegation during the last meeting of the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (Ticfa) in Dhaka in May was highly impressed of the economic progress of Bangladesh.
At the same time, they also called for improvement in business climate for more business and more foreign investment, she said.
Bernicat urged the Bangladesh government to amend the labour law and the Export Processing Zones law, raising them to international standards in line with the commitment the government made during the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June this year.
She called for urgent progress to improve the labour rights in Bangladesh so that US apparel retailers and brands do not complain about the poor working conditions and freedom of association.
"There is growing concern among US buyers about the poor working conditions and less

freedom of association in Bangladesh.
These act as risk factors and the buyers are prevented from growing their business in Bangladesh," she said.
The US envoy welcomed the government's decision for granting additional time to the Accord and the Alliance to operate in the country, allowing Bangladesh to utilise the expertise of the remediation efforts of global buyers and retailers.
On Rohingya issue, Bernicat said the crisis has had an impact on the economy of Bangladesh.
"But I want to express my deep appreciation for the people and the government of Bangladesh for their generosity in responding to the urgent need of the Rohingya refugees fleeing to this country," Bernicat said.
"I commend the continued hospitality of Bangladeshi people, especially those who live in Cox's Bazar area."
She said Bangladesh could truly recollect the memory when its people had also taken shelters in India during the Liberation War in 1971.
The ambassador recently visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.
She said her government has been working through the diplomatic channels such as UN

bodies and other international organisations to urge the Myanmar authority to end the violence in Rakhine state.
Myanmar should protect civilians, provide unfettered humanitarian access and ensure humanitarian assistance, she said, adding that the US has also urged the Myanmar army to stop operations targeting Rohingya people.
The diplomat said the US has also joined other countries to urge Myanmar to ensure voluntary return of Rohingya people from Bangladesh to their ancestral home.
Last year, the US contributed nearly \$140 million in assistance for the Rohingya people, she said.
The US is the single largest foreign direct investor in Bangladesh and also the single largest export destination for the country. Two-way trade stood at \$6.8 billion last year with the balance heavily tilted towards Bangladesh.
Bangladesh imported goods worth \$895 million and exported goods valued nearly \$6 billion last fiscal year.
"Nevertheless, there is a lot of scope for increasing the bilateral trade between the two countries," said Bernicat.
AmCham President Nurul Islam also spoke.

Rice to be imported thru' 3 more customs stations

FROM PAGE B1
Yesterday, retail prices of coarse rice in Dhaka city's markets were Tk 44-46 per kilogramme, down 8 percent from that a month ago. Prices of grain of the same quality were 15 percent higher year-on-year, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.
Hoque, the NBR official, said rice import through rail route would get a boost on inclusion of the Rohanpur LC station.
A railway route exists connecting Rohanpur in Chapainawabganj and Singabad in West Bengal's Malda.
Officials said the NBR has allowed entry of the commodity through more customs gateways based on proposals from importers and local chambers.
"Inclusion of rail route will be beneficial. The more the avenues, the more

supply will be," said Citta Majumder, managing director of the Majumder Group of Industries, a rice miller and importer.
Yet there is a problem. "The number of engines that Bangladesh Railway has should be increased to pull wagons coming from India. Unloading of products and return of wagons are not done on time because of a shortage of locomotives here," he said.
He said prices of coarse rice have declined to Tk 36-37 per kilogramme at the border because of increased supply.
From July 1 to October 24 in 2017-18, rice imports stood at 14.13 tonnes, up 10 times the total import of 1.33 lakh tonnes in July-June period of 2016-17, according to food ministry data.
Private traders imported three fourth of the total rice that has arrived so far.



LAUGFS GAS BANGLADESH
Ranjith Jayawardena, chief operating officer of LAUGFS Gas Bangladesh, receives the "Most Promising LPG Company in South Asia" trophy from Gowher Rizvi, prime minister's international affairs adviser, at South Asian Partnership Summit and South Asian Business Excellence Awards 2017, at Le Meridien Dhaka.