



Saudi to invest in 30 big projects

High-profile delegation due next month to finalise multi-billion-dollar investment in Bangladesh

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

Saudi Arabia plans to invest several billion dollars in more than 30 projects in Bangladesh, including setting up an aircraft repair and maintenance facility in Lalmonirhat.

The plan is part of Saudi efforts to boost bilateral and economic ties between the countries, said government officials in Dhaka.

A large Saudi delegation, including two senior ministers, is expected to arrive here next month. The team will discuss the multi-billion dollar investment with officials of the Prime Minister's Office and ministries concerned, they said.

The development comes after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to the Kingdom in October last year.

\$20B SAUDI INVESTMENT IN PAKISTAN - B2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

AREAS OF INVESTMENT

- Aircraft repair, maintenance facility
- Oil and gas
- Fertiliser
- Cement
- Power plants
- Solar energy
- Physical infrastructure



In this photo taken at the Abu Dhabi Presidential Palace yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan are seen holding a framed picture which captured the moment when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman met UAE founding president Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

PHOTO: BSS



The third part of our five-segment special supplement series, titled **AVOIDING AN URBAN NIGHTMARE: TIME TO GET PLANNING RIGHT**, is out today. Make sure you get your copy of this supplement free of charge from your hawkler. Stay tuned for **DESHI FIRST** which comes out on February 23.

Two killed in shipyard blast

Yet again, poor workplace safety exposed; authorities allegedly tried to cover up

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Two workers were killed and another was injured in an oil tanker explosion at a ship-breaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Md Jalil, 32, and Bipul Chandra, 30, of Barishal's Babuganj upazila. The injured, Md Masud, 26, was undergoing treatment at Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex.

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Shajahan-led body sparks anger in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An opposition lawmaker yesterday questioned the government decision to appoint Shajahan Khan as the chief of a 15-member committee formed to recommend ways on curbing road accidents and bringing discipline to the road transport sector.

While raising a supplementary question, Jatiya Party MP Fakhru Imam asked: "Will it be fruitful to control illegal drugs by ex-Awami League MP Abdur Rahman Bodi and ensure road safety by Shajahan Khan?"

Terming Shajahan an ill-advised choice to head the committee, Iman said his fellow MP was at the centre of controversies on different occasions for his comments and actions.

"Huge controversy was created across the country after Shajahan Khan's... SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

GAS OUTAGE

Gas supply will remain suspended for 12 hours from 6:00pm today in vast areas in the capital for shifting pipelines to facilitate work on metro rail project.

STORY ON PAGE 3

43 injured as BCL factions clash

BCL men beat up 6 journos in Sylhet, JNU

STAR REPORT

At least 43 people, including six journalists and two policemen, were injured as factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists clashed in the capital and Sylhet yesterday.

In the capital's Jagannath University (JnU), clashes over establishing supremacy between two groups of BCL left 39, including two reporters and two police officers, injured.

In Sylhet, four photographers were

beaten up by alleged BCL activists when they attempted to take pictures of a clash between two BCL groups on the campus of Murari Chand College.

The JnU's clash started around noon. Armed with iron rods, sharp weapons and sticks, around 250 BCL men, mostly wearing helmets, swooped on each other. The pitched battle continued until police intervened around 10 minutes later, witnesses said.

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A bulldozer demolishes a building on the bank of the Buriganga river in Bosila area of the capital during a BIWTA drive against encroachers yesterday morning. Inset, a building left unscathed while the surrounding ones have been razed.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Why it could drive tensions in South Asia

CNN ONLINE

Once again, geopolitical tensions are rising on the Indian subcontinent. And the timing, just ahead of India's general elections, could drive the mercury even higher in the coming days and weeks.

The trigger: a deadly car bomb attack on a convoy of Indian paramilitaries in the section of Kashmir controlled by New Delhi. The blast ripped through the convoy, killing at least 40 people and injuring five more -- the worst attack on Indian forces since the beginning of an insurgency in the region in the late 1980s, according to analysts.

The tragedy shook India, which says archival Pakistan had a "direct hand" in the incident. The situation took a new turn yesterday as Indian troops suffered new

India suffers new losses in Kashmir

Gun battle with militants kills 4 soldiers, cop, civilian; 3 masterminds of Thursday's bombing also dead

AFP, Srinagar

Indian troops yesterday suffered new losses in a battle with Kashmir militants that left at least nine dead, officials said, just days after a major suicide bomb attack escalated tensions with neighbouring Pakistan.

The confrontation piled more pressure on the Indian government, which has blamed Pakistan for last Thursday's suicide attack on a convoy that killed at least 40 paramilitaries.

Several hours of shooting rocked the Pulwama district, south of Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, after officials said four soldiers, a policeman, three militants and a civilian were killed in the latest clash.

An army major was among the dead, along with three militants from the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) group which claimed last week's attack, military and police officials said.

Six senior army men including a brigadier and a lieutenant colonel were injured in the hours-long gun battle, a police official told AFP.

"A police deputy inspector general has also suffered injuries," the official said.

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The first Australian company commenced manufacturing in **Meghna Industrial Economic Zone**

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