

MANPOWER EXPORT, INVESTMENT UAE to consider Dhaka's demands

Abu Dhabi crown prince assures Hasina

UNB, Abu Dhabi
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Nahyan yesterday assured Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the UAE would give due consideration to Bangladesh's demands, including manpower export and increasing investment.
Zayed Nahyan, also deputy supreme commander of the UAE, made the assurance during a meeting with Hasina at his royal palace.
After the meeting, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque briefed reporters where PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim was present.
During the meeting, Hasina and the prince talked on various issues, including how the UAE could help Bangladesh in its development and help Bangladesh over the Rohingya issue.
Hasina said some 40,000 Rohingya children were born in Bangladesh in the last 18 months.
The prince wanted to know about the

possible solution to the issue, and enquired about how he could help Bangladesh develop community clinics.
The PM sought UAE's cooperation in repatriating around one million Rohingyas living in Bangladesh.
Shahidul said the UAE was always active over the issue. "They'll take new programmes to help Bangladesh in resolving the Rohingya issue," he added.
About the manpower issue, the prince said they would discuss the matter giving it utmost importance.
He said he would visit Bangladesh and wanted to know from the PM when it would be suitable for him to make the visit.
In reply, Hasina said the winter season would be better for his visit. The prince said he could visit Bangladesh during the rainy season, too.
Earlier, the PM had a meeting with Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at the International Defence Exhibition when the latter highlighted the trade

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Holding sticks and sharp weapons, a group of alleged Bangladesh Chhatra League activists walks in front of MC College in Sylhet during a clash between two factions of the pro-Awami League student body yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASER

600,000 ROHINGYA REFUGEES Exposed to the elements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Nearly 600,000 refugees at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar are at high risk of cyclones with only rotting bamboos and shredding plastics to protect them, warns the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
A Red Cross Red Crescent survey found that 82 percent of the 700,000 people in the sprawling camps urgently need sturdier shelters to protect them from extreme temperatures, monsoon downpours and two cyclone seasons a year.
Housing conditions of the Rohingyas at the camps are basic and after 18 months they have dramatically

deteriorated, leaving them worryingly exposed to disasters.
Azmat Ulla, head of the IFRC country office in Bangladesh, said the aid community in Cox's Bazar needs to prioritise repairing and replacing the battered shelters so that people have some protection against the elements, and are provided with at least some basic comfort and dignity, according to a statement issued yesterday.
In recent weeks, Red Crescent staff members and volunteers have distributed tarpaulins, ropes and tools to 49,000 families benefitting 200,000 people. They have so far trained 8,400 people to make their shelters safer, while arranging more training is underway.
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43 injured as BCL factions clash

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One of the rivaling groups is led by suspended BCL committee president Tarikul Islam and general secretary Sheikh Jaynul Abedin Rasel, insiders said.
The other group is led by Ibrahim Farazi, Ashrafal Islam Titon and Hosne Mobarak Rishat, they added.
There was tension on the campus since morning.
Several crude bombs were exploded during another clash between the groups around 3:15pm.
University reporters Latiful Islam of the Samakal and Rakibul Islam Rakib of the Sangbad were beaten up by the "president-secretary group" when as they tried to take pictures of the clash.
Police rescued them and sent them to a hospital, witnesses said.
Police fired tear gas canisters around 3:25pm to calm the situation. The area remained tense until

the evening.
In the clashes, Additional Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir and Inspector Niru Miah of Dhaka Metropolitan Police were injured.
Amid tension and clashes, many classes were hampered, students said.
There has been growing tension between the groups since January. Following multiple clashes, the JNU BCL committee was temporarily suspended on February 3 by central leaders.
The other group led by leaders who are eyeing leadership positions have been trying to establish supremacy on campus and demanding abolition of the suspended committee. Both the groups have been blaming each other for the clashes.
On February 13, Tarikul and Rasel were confined to a room on the campus for nearly two hours. Police had to rescue them.

Asked, Vice-chancellor Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star, "A university cannot run if the clashes continue for a whole day. The authorities of this organisation should solve this problem soon."
"The university authorities will take action if any injured person files complaints to the authorities," he added.
Talking with The Daily Star, BCL General Secretary Golam Rabbani said they were considering whether to dissolve the JNU BCL committee altogether.
PHOTOGRAPHERS BEATEN IN SYLHET
Four photographers Yousuf Ali of the Samakal, Asmit Nandy Mazumder of the Bhorer Kagoj, Mithu Das Joy of the Shubho Pratinid and Kawser Ahmed of a local online portal were attacked when they tried to take photos of the clash on MC College campus.

Students said the clash took place over who would get to sit where during an event organised by campus cultural organisation Mohona to celebrate spring.
The activists could not be reached for comment.
Akhter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station, said the situation under control and additional police were deployed there.
He added that he was not aware of any attack on journalists.
There are no BCL committees in the college, Sylhet city and the district. However, there are many activists in the MC College.
Injured journalist Asmit Nandy of the Bhorer Kagoj said, "The BCL activists started the clash around 12:00pm. We [journalists] were trying to take pictures of the battle. But all of a sudden, some of them started beating us up."

Badal slams 'defence deal with KSA'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal in parliament last night opposed the "signing of a defence pact" between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, saying it may invite danger for the country.
Speaking on a point of order, he urged the Speaker to examine whether the constitution was violated "through inking the deal".
Badal, a ruling coalition MP, said Bangladesh should not engage in any conflicting issue without the UN mandate.
Mentioning that Riyadh will provide Bangladesh Tk 500 crore annually for removing mines from the Yemen border, he questioned why Saudi Arabia itself is not doing the dangerous job since it is their own problem.
"It's very dangerous to get involved in such a conflict. The MPs are facing various questions at home and abroad following the signing of the deal. So parliament should have its own views in this regard."
Earlier on February 14, two senior lawmakers -- Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Party

Saudi to invest in 30 big projects

FROM PAGE 1
While in Riyadh, she had called upon the Saudi business community to utilise the trade opportunities in Bangladesh.
Hasina also met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who expressed his keen interest in becoming Bangladesh's development partner.
Talking to The Daily Star, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) officials said the oil-rich kingdom wanted to invest in commercially viable projects in Bangladesh, targeting oil and gas, fertiliser, cement, power plants, solar energy, and physical infrastructures.
Last month, Golam Mosh, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, sent the Bangladesh foreign ministry a list of projects in which Saudi entrepreneurs have shown interest.
"Around 30 to 35 projects are expected to come up for discussion when the Saudi delegation comes to Bangladesh," Bida Executive Chairman Kazi M Aminul Islam told this paper.
Asked, he said it was difficult to estimate the amount of the investment right now.
Details of the projects and their finances will be finalised following the visit, he said.
Apart from the projects, Bangladesh

will also seek around \$1 billion as investment fund for its stock market and industrial finance.
Bangladesh would propose half the money for stock market and the other half to be disbursed to private sector entrepreneurs through financial institutions. The amount may come either as equity finance or loan, Aminul said.
If the Saudi delegation's visit turns out to be successful, the crown prince may also visit Bangladesh, he said.
According to the project proposals sent by the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh, the Gulf country is eager to set up an aircraft repair and maintenance facility.
Saudi's lone aircraft repair and maintenance company, Al Salam Aerospace -- jointly owned by its government and Boeing -- has already expressed its interest to develop the facility in Lalmonirhat, documents show.
A delegation from the company has recently visited Bangladesh and explored the potentials and skills of Bangladeshi workers in the sector.
On the other hand, another team, led by Chief of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Air Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat, also visited Al Salam's facilities in KSA.
The facility in Lalmonirhat will be developed by the air forces of the two countries, sources said.

The BIDA executive chairman said, "After Singapore and Dubai, Bangladesh has a huge potential to become an aviation hub. Apart from the infrastructural facility, skilled manpower is a must for that."
Once built, repair and maintenance of both military and commercial passenger aircraft could be done there, he said.
A unique proposal to set up a Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and urea fertiliser plant may also come up for discussion during the upcoming Saudi team's visit.
The speciality of the project is that the plant would be built outside the country -- either in Saudi Arabia or Morocco -- as the raw materials would easily be found there, according to the proposal.
State-run Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) and Saudi-Korean company Hanwah, will form a joint venture company for setting up the plant, it said.
Fertiliser to be produced at the factory will be imported to Bangladesh and the companies have already signed a memorandum of understanding to this end, the documents show.
The Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh said it was waiting for confirmation from the Saudi side about guaranteed supply of the raw materials, mainly phosphate.

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomed Bangladesh investment for the DAP plant, including the supply of raw materials, says the proposal.
Talking about it, the Bida executive chairman said other countries were running similar projects and claimed that it would be viable for Bangladesh.
Contacted, Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, said the proposed joint venture appears to be still at an "exploratory stage".
"Economic viability from Bangladesh's national point of view will depend not just on the guaranteed supply of raw materials but also on the terms of the joint venture contract between Hanwah and BCIC," he said.
"The devil is always in the detail," he said, adding that BCIC may not only be a joint owner but also the buyer of DAP and urea to be produced either in Morocco or Saudi Arabia.
The terms of three contracts will therefore be the most important: the phosphate supply contract, the urea/DAP purchase contract and the profit and risk sharing arrangements, Zahid said.
"We hope BCIC will negotiate these deals smartly guarding against the 'moral hazard' associated with public-private partnerships that risk degenerating into private profit and public loss," he added.

China

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it stands at 77 percent and among college students 80 percent.
The regulation aims to pull that back to 70 percent among senior high school students, with rates among primary school students targeted at 38 percent and junior high school students at 60 percent.
The regulation would bar primary and middle school students from bringing electronic devices into classrooms without permission, restrict amounts of homework assigned and increase the time for breaks, sports and extra-curricular activities.
It says no written homework at all should be assigned to 1st and 2nd graders.
Already, national education authorities have issued a proposal to prevent teachers from using the popular WeChat or QQ messaging apps for assigning homework and banned them from asking parents to mark their children's work. The education ministry also called for only paper homework assignments for primary and middle school students "in principle."
Still, mobile devices are unlikely to be abandoned entirely as a means of supplementing classwork. Language apps, especially those for learning English pronunciation, are extremely popular with students, many of whom are more likely to own smart phones than home computers.

All aboard harmony train

FROM PAGE 16
annual trip to attend the Urs held on the day Midnapore Boro Huzur arrived in India.
Jilani, the ancestor of Midnapore, had come to India from Iraq in the 19th century to preach Islam.
Soon after inheriting the title from his father, Midnapore visited Rajbari on February 17, 1901, to meet his acolytes in undivided India, his followers said.
His Bangladesh disciples have attended the Urs every year since then.
It is not, however, only Muslims who attend the Urs. People of other faiths do so too.
"People of all faiths go to the Midnapore Urs to seek blessings of the Boro Huzur," Abdul Aziz Quaderi, executive committee member of the Anjuman-e-Quadria Committee, said.
He said the Hindus called the Boro Huzur, Guru Dev.
But how does one get to take part in this special trip?
The Anjuman-e-Quadria selects the pilgrims and sends their papers to the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh for visas.

Anjuman-e-Quadria, the management committee in Rajbari, selects applications by lottery.
The train crosses Bangladesh border via Darsana-Gede (India) point.
The train starts at 10pm on February 15 and leaves Midnapore at 10pm (Indian time) on February 18 reaching Rajbari the following day.
Immigration formalities are completed at Darshana station in Bangladesh.
There are three leaders from the Qadria committee and 80 volunteers to coordinate the whole trip.
Usually, the passengers have their breakfast at Darshana, lunch at Gede and dinner at Rana Chat station in India.
Md Showkat Ali, deputy commissioner of Rajbari, said, "It's a good example of religious harmony and friendship between Bangladesh and India. It's a tradition of more than 100 years and matter of pride for the Rajbari people."
This year, 2,260 Bangladeshis attended the yearly event scheduled on February 17 on board the Midnapore Urs Special in its 24 carriages.



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