

HIGH-STAKES VISIT TO KSA

Xi heralds 'new era' in ties

Beijing, Riyadh sign 34 deals; US wary of China's growing influence in Middle East

REUTERS, Riyadh

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received President Xi Jinping yesterday as the Chinese leader heralded "a new era" in Arab relations, with a lavish welcome signaling Riyadh's interest in deepening ties with Beijing despite US wariness.

ant stay" in Saudi Arabia, Saudi state news SPA reported. It stood in stark contrast to the low-key welcome extended in July to US President Joe Biden, with whom ties have been strained by Saudi energy policy and the 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi that had overshadowed the awkward visit.

ergy, information technology, cloud services, transport, construction and other sectors, state news agency SPA reported. It gave no figures, but had earlier said the two countries would seal initial agreements worth \$30 billion.

885 named BNP men sued in 5 cases

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blasting explosives.
Meanwhile, 475 leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies who were arrested following Wednesday's clash were produced before Dhaka courts yesterday.

safety," Biplob Kumar Sarker, joint commissioner (operations) of the DMP, told reporters.
Around 11:00am, BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam arrived but he was barred from going into the party headquarters.

1,500 to 2,000 others are unnamed accused in the case.
Case document shows accused No. 376 is Russe Majumder, a computer operator at the industries ministry. The complainant mentioned him as a BNP activist who lives in the city's Shanir Akhra.

Tofael Hossain, the first general secretary of Sunamganj district BNP, is among the accused.
In the case filed with Motijheel police station, SI Nazrul Islam Shikder named 28 accused and many unidentified others for blocking vehicular movement and attacking police at the DIT Extension road in Fakirapool. Dhaka University JCD president Khorshed Alam Sohel is among the accused.

Hit back if anyone tries

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She said, "During Awami League rule, all businesspeople, irrespective of whether they have Awami League or BNP leanings, are able to do business in peace. We did not set up any Hawa Bhaban or Khawa Bhaban. We, rather, gave them opportunities to do business."

fugitive convict."
Sounding a note of warning, she said all should remember that the Awami League did not come from anyone's pocket and its existence was deep-rooted as it was established by the Father of the Nation.

power is not meant for enjoying, rather it is for serving the country and its people.
"No development was carried out during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat."
She directed AL men to put forth the picture of how the BNP-Jamaat had carried out attacks on the innocent.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday instructed leaders and activists of AL and its associate bodies to prepare to resist the BNP.
He issued the instructions during a separate meeting at the Bangabandhu Avenue office. He had made similar directives while addressing triennial councils of Sherpur district unit and Cumilla south district unit of AL.

It will begin next year, Li Jiming hopes

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She said the US would resettle more Rohingyas but did not mention any figure.
In a statement yesterday, Noyes said as part of the US' unwavering partnership with Bangladesh and comprehensive response to Rohingya refugees, the Biden Administration is very pleased to establish, in coordination with UNHCR and other resettlement countries, a resettlement programme for the most vulnerable Rohingya

refugees.
She said now that the Rohingya crisis has become protracted due to the genocide by the Myanmar regime, it is time to look for a comprehensive approach to the solutions until Rohingya repatriation is possible in a safe and sustainable manner.

Under an agreement signed in 2017, Myanmar agreed to take back the Rohingyas who fled in 2016 and 2017. They would be more than a million. And those who fled before that would be around 35,000.

Analysts who study refugee issues say the previous record suggests that the US resettled a small number of Rohingyas. Only more than 9,000 Rohingya refugees have resettled in the US over the past decade, primarily from Malaysia.

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