

SECOND EDITION

DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2023

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 34

FALGUN 3, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 24, 1444 HIJRI

60 PAGES PLUS SHOUT : TK 15.00



B1 Textile, garments machinery market growing fast



P15 BPL: Fourth for Comilla or first for Sylhet?



P9 Rising seas threaten exodus of 'biblical' scale



P6 Mehazabien pushes forward

Delhi has total support for Hasina

Indian foreign secretary calls on PM, reaffirms deeper development, economic ties

STAR REPORT

Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has the total support of his country. "We have total support for you and your leadership," a PMO spokesperson quoted him as telling the premier during his meeting with her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Hasina said Bangladesh considered India as a trusted friend, and expressed hope that this friendship would deepen further.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Prime Minister's Speechwriter Md Nazrul Islam said Kwatra told Hasina that his country would stand by Bangladesh in its development endeavours, including political and economic progress.

He said the Indian foreign secretary invited the PM to the 18th G20 Summit, scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 9-10.

Hasina accepted the invitation and thanked her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, the current chair of the G20, for inviting Bangladesh as a "guest country" to all its meetings.

The top bureaucrat of the Indian foreign office described Dhaka-New Delhi ties to be "very firm" and said the entire world now valued the relationship as it reached a strategic level.

"This relationship is being strengthened further," he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. Kwatra invited the prime minister to attend the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi on September 9-10.

PHOTO: BSS

Erosion of democracy to limit US cooperation

Says US State Department Counsellor Chollet, expresses commitment to strengthening ties with Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

If democracy in any country, including Bangladesh, erodes, it limits the US's ability to cooperate with that country, US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet has said.

"It doesn't mean we won't cooperate. It doesn't mean our relationship won't be important. But it just will be a limiting factor when it comes to business investment," he said during a meeting in Dhaka yesterday.

Chollet, an official of the rank of undersecretary who led a high-level seven-member delegation to Dhaka, said US companies want transparency, rule of law, and accountability when comes to investing in a country.

In general, US-Bangladesh relationship has great potential and that is why there has been a consistent stream of officials visiting Bangladesh, he said in the meeting with a group of senior journalists at the American Centre in Dhaka.

Chollet arrived in Dhaka on Tuesday



evening and called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, and other officials. In the afternoon, he interacted with senior journalists.

He said Bangladesh is a development success story from the region and has done a great job by sheltering more than a million Rohingyas. The US is committed to strengthening the ties with Bangladesh as with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

At meetings with the top leaders of Bangladesh, he stressed the importance of democracy, free and fair elections, freedom of the press, and a strong civil society.

Asked what may happen if there were no free and fair elections in Bangladesh, Chollet said he does not want to speculate.

"I have confidence there can be a free and fair election. The government has said they want to have a free and fair election. We've made no secret of the concerns we

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

TORONTO CRASH

3 Bangladeshi students killed

Kumar Bishwajit's son in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The son of celebrated singer Kumar Bishwajit is in a critical condition after he was involved in a road accident in Canada's Toronto that also killed three other Bangladeshi students on Monday night.

The deceased -- Shahriar Khan, Angela Barai, and Aryan Dipta -- were in a car that was being driven by the singer's son Kumar Nibir, Canadian journalist Shaogat Ali Sagar told The Daily Star.

They were students of Humber College in Toronto.

Shahriar and Aryan died on the spot and Angela passed away at a hospital.

"The vehicle was at speed. The driver lost control while exiting a highway and entering another. After hitting the guard rails, the vehicle flipped and then caught fire," Sagar said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

POWER SUPPLY DURING SUMMER

At least \$4.45b needed to cover fuel costs

Says PDB's conservative estimate

ASIFUR RAHMAN

At least \$4.45 billion is needed in fuel costs to ensure adequate power supply from February to June, when demand is set to increase by more than 50 percent, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) estimates.

The amount could exceed \$5 billion if the power import bill from Indian Adani Power and the payment to Chevron, which operates the biggest gas field in Bangladesh, are factored in, according to PDB officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The months of February through June see heightened demand for electricity given the summer heat and Boro irrigation season.

And this year, Ramadan is scheduled to take place during the period, so an uninterrupted power supply is expected to ease the demands of monthlong fasting.

Subsequently, PDB estimates 15,000-16,000 megawatts would be needed in a day during the five months. In January, electricity production was around 7,000 to



TOTAL POWER GENERATION CAPACITY 23,482MW

TARGET FOR SUMMER 16,000MW

- From gas 6,240MW
- Coal 2,865MW
- Furnace Oil and Diesel 5,050MW
- Hydro/Renewable 60MW
- Import 1,785MW

10,000 megawatts a day, according to PDB data.

Last year, the highest production was in April: 14,778 MW.

"We might not be able to get rid of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

GENERATION EQ
Arriving Soon

1. Mercedes-Benz AG Brand