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## China wants stability in Bangladesh

### Says ambassador Yao Wen during a visit to Star

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

China wants peace and stability in Bangladesh to sustain the development achieved by the country in the past decade, said Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen yesterday.

He made the comment while taking part in an interaction with The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and senior journalists during a courtesy visit to the newspaper's office.

"In South Asia, Bangladesh has been the most successful country in terms of economy. We want peace and stability for its continued development," Yao Wen said.

He said China is a major development partner of Bangladesh and has substantial investment here. Besides, there are

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Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen visited The Daily Star yesterday and had interactions with the newspaper's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and senior journalists.

PHOTO: STAR

## PM's Brussels visit 'significant', at a 'crucial time'

### Says Momen

STAR REPORT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday described Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to Brussels as "extremely significant", which will help take Bangladesh's ties with the European Union to a new height.

"This is a very significant visit. This is an achievement for us," he told reporters, noting that the visit is happening at a "crucial moment."

Asked why it is a crucial time, Momen referred to the upcoming general election in Bangladesh.

The PM will be visiting Brussels from October 24-26 at the invitation of European Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen, reports UNB.

Speaking at yesterday's event, Momen said, "Earlier, they [EU] thought they would send a big team. But they also have budget problems. All countries now have budget problems. They will send a delegation of seven people for this purpose."

The foreign minister also said the European Union will send a seven-member team to observe the elections.

He said the representatives will come at their own expense. However, the Bangladesh government will arrange accommodation for them.

Mentionable, on October 19, a top official of the Election Commission said the EU will send a four-member observer mission to monitor the polls.

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## TK 48 LAKH HEIST ON EXPRESSWAY

# 7 members of a gang held



This still image of CCTV footage shows the robbers, impersonating Rab officials, making the victims get down from their car on the Dhaka Elevated Expressway on October 10 afternoon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have arrested seven members of a robbery gang who impersonated Rab members and robbed Tk 48 lakh from officials of a textile factory on the Dhaka Elevated Expressway on October 10 afternoon.

DB officials said it was the first robbery incident on the expressway since its inauguration on September 2.

The arrestees are: Sabuj Mia alias Shyamol, 39, Saharul Islam Sagar, 23, Abu Yousuf, 41, Didar Munshi, 35, Ferdous Wahid, 35, Al Amin Duari, 42, and Daud Hossain Molla, 39.

The DB men raided different districts and arrested them along with Tk 26 lakh of the robbed money, 2.6 bhories of gold, a toy pistol and two Rab vests, Harun Or Rashid, chief of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press conference at the DMP media centre yesterday.

On October 10, some officials of a textile factory withdrew Tk 83.50 lakh from a private bank and handed over Tk 35.50 lakh to their business partners inside the bank.

The robbery took place when the officials were taking the remaining Tk 48 lakh to Banani using the expressway.

On their way, the robbers

intercepted the victim's car near Khilkhet portion of the expressway. Introducing themselves as members of Rab, the robbers said they had information that the occupants of the car were carrying illegal arms and asked them to get out, the DB chief told reporters.

He said the robbers took the officials in their car and beat them up. They took the Tk 48 lakh before dropping them on 300 Feet Road around 30 minutes later.

**The robbery took place when the officials were taking Tk 48 lakh to Banani using the expressway. The robbers intercepted the victim's car near Khilkhet.**

A case was later filed with Khilkhet Police Station in this regard.

Harun said Sabuz was the mastermind of the gang and they distributed the money at his house in Banani. Later, the seven robbers fled to seven separate districts to avoid arrest.

One of the accused lost a portion of the looted money in gambling, while another one bought 2.6 bhories of gold with the money, he added.

## JS adopts condolence motion over deaths of Palestinians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday adopted a condolence motion at the death of Palestinians by Israeli attacks.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury placed the motion which was adopted unanimously.

In the condolence motion, the Speaker said the Jatiya Sangsad expresses its deepest condolences and prays for the salvation of the departed souls who were killed in the recent barbaric attacks by the Israeli occupying forces in Gaza and other places in Palestine.

"The parliament also expresses sympathy to the bereaved family members," she said.

Meanwhile, the House also adopted a condolence motion expressing grief at the demise of three sitting MPs -- AKM Shahjahan Kamal (Laxmipur-3), M Shahjahan Miah (Patuakhali-4) and M Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan (Brahmanbaria-2).

## DENGUE OUTBREAK

# 9 more die, 2,056 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least nine more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

Of the nine deaths, seven were reported in the capital.

At least 2,056 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to Directorate General of Health Services.

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,255 lives this year and nearly 255,046 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

## Most children have vitamin deficiency

### Speakers tell workshop, stress food fortification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should implement the Vitamin A Enrichment in Edible Oil Act, 2013, while also introducing a similar act to address vitamin D deficiency among children, said speakers in an event yesterday.

They came up with these suggestions in a two-day workshop titled "Vitamin Fortifies Safe Edible Oil for All- Progress, Challenge, and Way Forward", organised by Progga, at the capital's Bangladesh Medical Association premises.

The initiative aimed at raising awareness regarding the prevalent deficiency of micronutrients in edible oil and introducing fortification of vitamin A and D in edible oil as a solution.

Vitamin D deficiency was found in one of every four children, they said referring to the Bangladesh National Micronutrient Status Survey 2019-2020.

"Some consume supplements to ensure adequate intake of vitamins A and D. However, that is not viable. Rather, we must try to consume food that is rich in vitamins," said Abu Ahmed Shamim, associate scientist of James P Grant School of Public Health at Brac University.

Fortification is necessary as most

children in the country have vitamin A and D deficiencies. Extra virgin oil contains these micronutrients, but they are expensive and unaffordable to most, he added.

Food fortification is defined as the practice of adding vitamins and minerals to commonly consumed food.

**Some consume supplements to ensure adequate intake of vitamins A and D. However, that is not viable. Rather, we must try to consume food that is rich in vitamins.**

ABU AHMED SHAMIM  
Brac University

Md Iftekhar, consultant at National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute, highlighted media's role in raising awareness in this regard.

Prof Sohel Reza Chowdhury of epidemiology and research department of National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute and ABM Zubair, executive director of Progga, also spoke at the workshop.

## GRAFT CASE

# Judge gets death threats for convicting Tarique, Zubaida

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka judge has received death threats two and a half months after his court sentenced BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman to prison in a graft case.

On August 2, Judge Md Asaduzzaman of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka sentenced Tarique to nine years and Zubaida to three years in prison in their absence in the case filed in 2007.

"On October 17, we got two letters, containing death threats for judge Md Asaduzzaman for convicting BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman," Shah Md Mamun, nazir of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, told The Daily Star.

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Piles of non-biodegradable plastic, dumped in absence of monitoring by authorities, choke the Ramchandrapur canal in the capital's Adabor area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON