

China most reliable dev partner of Bangladesh

Says ambassador Wen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said China is the most reliable development partner and a true friend of Bangladesh.

He said the so-called China trap is sheer fabrication. Chinese projects under the Belt and Road Initiative bring about immense benefits to the people, he said at a reunion of the alumni of Chinese exchange programmes at the Chinese embassy yesterday evening.

China has been Bangladesh's largest trading partner for 13 consecutive years, he said, adding that it is also a major source of foreign investment in Bangladesh, with an investment of \$3.17 billion.

Wen said there are around 700 Chinese companies registered in Bangladesh.

However, he said, alongside the steady progress of China-Bangladesh relations, some disturbing noises emerge once in a while.

China-Bangladesh cooperation finds its root deep in the long-established friendship between the two peoples. It would have been impossible without the political guidance of the leaderships of the two countries, he said.

The envoy said China in the coming year will organise more bilateral training programmes, which would benefit a greater number of Bangladeshi participants.

Wen said 50 flights are operated on China-Bangladesh route every week and nearly 10,000 people travel to and from China on weekly basis.

"Here, I have another good news to share with you. More direct flights from Dhaka to Beijing will be launched very soon, so as to provide more diverse flight options and making people-to-people exchanges even more convenient," he added.

**SPYING CHARGES
Russian court
extends detention
of US journo**

AFP, Moscow

A Moscow court yesterday said it had extended until January the detention of US reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested in Russia earlier this year on spying charges.

The court said Gershkovich's "period of detention" was extended by two more months until January 30, in what the Wall Street Journal, his employer, called a "brazen and outrageous attack on a free press."

The 32-year-old correspondent, the Wall Street Journal and the US government have all rejected the spying allegations.

In quest for convenient rivals

FROM PAGE 1

AL nominees in three constituencies in the capital are among the party ticket holders scrambling to have opponents from smaller parties, the sources said.

Some offered to go the extra mile to have opponents in the race.

Sources said a number of AL nominees told smaller parties that they would pay for the nomination forms of their opponents and have their campaign posters printed.

Pressure is mounting on the smaller parties to nominate candidates, but the problem is that some of these parties do not have the capacity to field candidates in all constituencies.

A few of them are running for the first time and the candidates they are picking are hardly known by the constituents, said AL insiders with knowledge of the developments.

Even if the AL nominees succeed in getting opponents from smaller parties, it will not be easy to stop the ruling party from giving the go-ahead to an AL-endorsed independent.

'Give back our loved ones'

FROM PAGE 1

Rajbondider Swajan, meaning relatives of political prisoners.

Many family members held protests of their loved ones at the demonstration from 10:30am-1:00pm.

Organisers said at least 17,010 BNP leaders and activists have been arrested in 435 cases across the country since October 24.

At least 88 of them are central and top-level leaders of different wings and district units of BNP, they said.

The arrestees include BNP leaders Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Mirza Abbas, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Shahjahan Omar, Air Vice Marshal (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Abdus Salam Pintu and Amanullah Amu.

Family members of the detained

My interpretation of sculptures is a fleeting moment caught in time that is otherwise a contorted, dramatic expression of life's beautiful everyday story. A mother feeding her child, Buddha in meditation, a seated woman, even animals – all these everyday sights are captured in a three dimensional artwork in the hands of the sculptor.



**REVIVAL OF SCULPTURE
as an art form**

RRB

Art galleries in Dhaka hardly hold any exclusive exhibition for sculptures and even if they do, it is mostly as part of mixed media shows. However, the grandiosity of a simple composition of a woman resting, if perfectly placed under the soft light, grabs your mind with so much intensity that you might just want to lose yourself completely.

According to artist Hamiduzzaman Khan, "Architects, while planning, are now mindful of allotting spaces for full-sized sculpture in construction sites of grand buildings. The general people are beginning to value the power of such massive art forms."

"Works of students from the Sculpture Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka are regularly exhibiting their work in the university premises. They have a special place and are very sought after in their yearly Zainul Utsab at the institute. These are pleasant signs for taking this 3D art form forward."

Recently, a mixed media art exhibition by 27 modern and contemporary artists is going on in Uttara. The show, "Behind the Numbers" at Galleri Kaya presents a selection of 83 astounding works.

The exhibition has been extended till 8 December for collectors to experience powerful sculptures and fluid paintings on display. Artist Goutam Chakraborty, the Director of the gallery, has carefully selected the works of art with much pomp.

What really captivates the heart are the forms of images in solid

made in the form of distorted bottles. Shahnoor Mamun's stoneware ceramic and eminent artist, Ivy Zaman's bronze sculpture of Buddha and women are something to really appreciate.

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material that are turned into a three-dimensional work of art. Hamiduzzaman Khan, Ivy Zaman, Mukti Bhowmik, Habiba Akter Papia, Tejosh Halder Josh, and Shahnoor Mamun's work are on display.

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