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PM seeks China's help for South's development

Beijing pledges support for Dhaka in regional, international arenas

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought cooperation from China for the development of southern Bangladesh.

She made the request to Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen when he called on her at the Gono Bhavan yesterday.

The envoy in response requested Hasina to put forward specific proposals to this end.

Wen also expressed his country's commitment to support Bangladesh for playing a "bigger role in international and regional affairs" and encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Bangladesh and help it achieve the objectives of Vision 2041.

"Direct road communication has already been established with the country's southern region through the Padma Bridge. I want China to

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A family walks towards a Rajshahi-bound train as they leave the capital yesterday to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. Yesterday was first day for which advance tickets were sold and those lucky enough to snatch the tickets left Dhaka.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SYLHET MEDICAL UNIV ACC sues 58 over graft in recruitment

Ex-VC among them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Former vice-chancellor, former acting registrar, and 56 other officials of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Medical University in Sylhet were sued for corruption and irregularities in recruitment.

On Monday afternoon, Ismail Hossain Emon, deputy assistant director of Sylhet divisional office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, lodged the case against Ex-VC Morshed Ahmed Chowdhury and former acting registrar Naimul Haque Chowdhury and others with the ACC Sylhet district office.

The accused were sued under sections 409, 420, and 109 of the Penal Code and 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act-1947.

According to the case statement, the then VC, in collusion with the acting registrar and others, violated the Sylhet Medical University Act-2018 in recruiting employees.

VC Morshed recruited 239 against the University Grants Commission's

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TRANSCOM GROUP Chairman, CEO among 3 bailed in four cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to three top executives of Transcom Group in four cases.

The top executives are Transcom Group Chairman Shahnaz Rahman, Chief Executive Officer Simeen Rahman, and Head of Transformation Zaraq Ayat Hossain. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahub Ahmed gave the order after the three surrendered before the court as per a Supreme Court directive and sought bail, said their lawyer Mohammad Shaheenoor Islam.

The bail will be in effect until police submit probe reports to the court in the four cases, he said.

The lawyers who represented the Transcom executives at yesterday's hearing include Abdur Rahman Howlader, president of Dhaka Bar Association; Mizanur Rahman Mamun, former president of Dhaka Bar Association; Mohammad Anwar Shahadat, general secretary of Dhaka Bar Association; and Chaitanya Chandra Halder, Mohammad Arshadur Rouf, Abdullah Al-Mamun, and Mohammad Siddique Ullah Miah.

In March, writ petitions were filed with the Supreme Court, seeking directives so that the three top executives could return to the country without facing any hindrance, harassment, arrest, and could surrender before the court.

The SC then directed the writ petitioners to surrender before the court concerned within 72 hours of their return to Bangladesh.

The top executives yesterday surrendered before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka hours after they returned to the country and sought bail.

On February 22, Simeen's younger sister Shahzreh Huq filed three cases with Gulshan Police Station accusing the

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Israel 'hasn't done enough' to protect Gaza civilians

Says 'outraged, heartbroken' Biden; 60 more Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden voiced strong criticism of Israel following a strike that killed seven aid workers in Gaza, saying it has not done enough to protect such workers.

"Incidents like yesterday's simply should not happen. Israel has also not done enough to protect civilians," Biden said in a statement on Tuesday evening. Biden said he was "outraged and heartbroken" by the death on Monday of the World Central Kitchen (WCK) workers, adding that distributing aid in the Palestinian territory has been difficult "because Israel has not done enough to protect aid workers trying to deliver desperately needed help to civilians."

In a strongly worded statement Biden said Israel's investigation of the strike "must be swift, it must bring accountability, and its findings must be made public."

Biden and other US officials have expressed growing frustration with Israel as its unrelenting offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip sends civilian deaths soaring.

The seven staffers from the US-based food aid charity were killed when a strike hit their convoy in the Gazan town of Deir al-Balah.

Biden said the death of the aid workers was not a "stand alone incident." The United Nations says the offensive has left almost 200 aid workers dead, reports AFP. Ambulances arrived yesterday at Gaza's border crossing with Egypt carrying

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- Bodies of six aid workers arrive at Gaza-Egypt border
- UN rights council to consider call for Israel arms embargo
- Palestinians relaunch bid to become UN member state
- Death toll in enclave rises to 32,975

2 Bangladeshis injured in BSF firing

UNB, Benapole

Two Bangladeshis were shot allegedly by members of India's Border Security Force in Benapole's Daulatpur border area on Tuesday night.

The victims were Babu Mia, 32, and Dalim Hossain, 32, of the village.

Lt Col Mohammad Khurshid Anwar, commanding officer of BGB 21 Battalion, said the BSF members from Kaliani camp opened fire on the two when they were seen near no 182 of 17/7 S pillar along the Indian side of the border, leaving them injured.

The BGB members took them to the camp, and they were given treatment there, he added.

Earlier on March 26, a Bangladeshi man was shot dead allegedly by BSF members along Nitpur border in Naogaon's Porsha upazila.

Killings by the BSF continue despite repeated assurances made by the Indian side of bringing down the border casualties to zero.

Nasa to set up new time standard for the moon

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa is working to create a new standard of time for the moon that will see clocks move faster than on Earth, according to a White House memo.

The US Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) directed the US space agency to set up a moon-centric time reference system that accounts for its differing gravitational forces.



In a memo on Tuesday, OSTP chief Arati Prabhakar noted that Earth-based clocks would appear to lose 58.7 microseconds per Earth-day as a result of these factors.

Nasa has until 2026 to set up a unified time standard, which Prabhakar referred to as Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC). It will then be used by astronauts, spacecraft and satellites that require highly accurate timekeeping.

"An atomic clock on the moon will tick at a different rate than a clock on Earth," said Kevin Coggins, Nasa's top communications and navigation official.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Firefighters, with the help of locals, trying to douse a fire that broke out at Salam Jute Mills Ltd near Jabusa Chowrasta in Khulna's Rupsha upazila around 5:30pm yesterday. The source of the fire was yet to be determined.

MORE NEWS

Bailey Road inferno: Rajuk finds gross violations of rules **PAGE 3**

Over 4,000 Bangla gambling ads on Facebook: Dismislab **PAGE 3**

US warns Iran not to target it over Syria strike **PAGE 7**




PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-31	12-45	4-45	6-19	7-45
JAMAAT 4-41	1-15	5-00	6-29	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING			
RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
24	4		6:19
25	5	4:24	6:20
26	6	4:24	6:20

In Remembrance of the First Death Anniversary



With deep respect, we remember Mirza Ejaz Ahmed, the Chairman of Shirtmakers Group and a renowned banker, on his first Death Anniversary.

A Doa Mahfil will be held for the maghfirat of the departed soul on Thursday, April 4, 2024, after the Asr prayer at his residence (Faujians Building, Plot- 1A, 1, 3, 5, Road- 10, Block- A, Sector- 1, Swadesh Properties, Swarnali Abashon, Khilkhet, Dhaka). The family kindly requests the presence of all relatives, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers to join in offering prayers for the maghfirat of his departed soul.

Mahah Ahmed Mirza, Shabab Ahmed Mirza
And
Members of the Shirtmakers Group