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Yunus tells Chinese companies, says large-scale investment from China can be a game changer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said that large-scale Chinese investment in Bangladesh can be a game changer for the country's economy.

"Chinese companies are the masters of manufacturing in the globe, and we want to be your partner," Yunus said while inaugurating the China-Bangladesh Conference on Trade and Investment.

The daylong event was organised by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) with assistance from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and the Chinese government, at the BIDA office in the capital.

China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao spoke there as special guest.

Yunus said tens of millions of young Bangladeshis desperately need good jobs to express the skill and tenacity they have in making a mark in history.

"Bangladesh stands on the cusp of a transformative era. Our interim government has been steadfast with implementing reforms aimed at enhancing the investment climate, streamlining regulatory frameworks, and ensuring a conducive environment for business operations," the chief adviser said.

These efforts are designed to attract foreign direct



Autorickshaw drivers push their vehicles through a flooded stretch of Bangabir Road on the old Sylhet-Dhaka highway yesterday, after their engines stalled from ingesting water. Days of continuous heavy rain have left low-lying areas of Sylhet city severely waterlogged.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

TIB voices concern over river grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday expressed deep concerns over illegal structures and rampant encroachment at the confluence of the Dhaleshwari and Shitalakkhya rivers.

TIB urged the authorities to immediately blacklist Shah Cement, which according to a report published by this newspaper, occupies approximately 24 acres of land at the confluence in the Mukterpur area of Munshiganj, said a statement.

The TIB called this a blatant violation of environmental and river conservation laws and called for removal of illegal structures to restore the natural flow of the rivers.

The Daily Star report headlined "A blatant river grab" was published on Sunday.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "There is no justification whatsoever for this operation that is destroying two rivers through encroachment. Such actions not only ruin the navigability of rivers but also gravely endanger the country's ecological balance and the lives and livelihoods of river-dependent communities."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



investment, stimulate economic growth, and create employment opportunities for the youth, he added.

Yunus also said the conference is a historic moment for Bangladesh, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the countries' enduring friendship.

He said that the gathering marks a significant milestone in the relationship and growing economic partnership between the two countries. The largest-ever Chinese business delegation has been visiting Bangladesh, comprising over 150 investors and business leaders representing scores of companies, including some of the largest in China.

"We have to build a future which can touch the sky. That's the potential we have together," the chief adviser said.

Yunus said a couple of months ago, during his visit

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Downpours submerge hundreds of villages

Landslide kills 4 of a family in Sylhet

STAR REPORT

Amid torrential downpours and flooding, a landslide in Sylhet killed four members of a family, including two children, early yesterday.

Hundreds of villages and neighbourhoods in Sylhet and Moulvibazar have been inundated by swelling rivers, upending the lives of residents.

In Chattogram city, officials opened shelters and warned people about the risks of potential mudslides and asked people to evacuate the houses near hills.

The districts along the coastline, especially Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, and Patuakhali, are still reeling from the damage done by last

Met office said light to moderate rain with thunderstorms are likely to continue for several more days.

week's deep depression over the Bay.

According to a Met Office forecast issued yesterday morning, light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and lightning are likely to continue for five days.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said more areas may get flooded in Sylhet, Moulvibazar,

Netrokona, and Habiganj districts.

In Sylhet's Golapganj, a landslide crushed a hut around 2:00am yesterday, killing Riaz Uddin, 50, his wife Rahima Begum, 35, their daughter Samia Khatun, 15, and son Abbas Uddin, 13.

Despite a rescue operation by army personnel, firefighters, and police, none of the family members survived. Their bodies were recovered more than six hours later, said acting upazila nirbahi officer Faisal Mahmud.

The Met Office in Sylhet reported 404.8 mm of rain in the 24 hours preceding 6:00am yesterday, the highest in a day this year.

The Surma and Kushiyara

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

ACC raids Nagad HQ over hiring irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday raided the Dhaka headquarters of Nagad as part of an investigation into allegations of irregular recruitment and embezzlement of Tk 150 crore through fake bills and vouchers.

At the centre of the recruitment allegation is the appointment of Jakia Sultana Jui, wife of Atik Morshed, who serves as personal officer to Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, the chief adviser's special assistant for the posts, telecommunications and ICT ministry.

"We have found preliminary evidence of irregularities in the appointment of Atik Morshed's wife to Nagad," ACC Assistant Director Md Ikram Hossen told reporters following the raid.

Regarding the embezzlement allegation, he said, "We have collected relevant records and documents related to both allegations, and we'll now begin reviewing them."

In a statement issued later in the day, the ACC said it carried out the enforcement drive at the mobile financial

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Smoke and debris rise after an Israeli strike on a house west of Jabalia in northern Gaza yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Israeli gunfire kills 31 near Gaza aid distribution site

Say rescuers; US rejects Hamas's response to truce proposal

AGENCIES

Gaza rescuers said Israeli gunfire killed at least 31 Palestinians near a US-backed aid distribution site yesterday, shortly after Washington rejected Hamas's response to a ceasefire proposal as "totally unacceptable".

Israel recently introduced a revamped aid delivery mechanism in cooperation with a newly formed US-backed organisation, bypassing the longstanding UN-led system.

An Israeli attack near an aid distribution point run by the Gaza

Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) killed at least 31 people in Rafah, Palestinian news agency WAFA and Hamas-affiliated media said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the reported attack, which WAFA said injured more than 115 people, reports Reuters.

The casualties were taken to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, Bassal said.

Displaced Beit Lahia resident Sameh Hamuda, 33, told AFP he had walked from Gaza City and spent the night with relatives in a tent near Rafah before heading to the

aid centre around 5:00 am to wait among a crowd of people.

"They began distributing aid, but suddenly quadcopter drones opened fire on the people, and tanks started shooting heavily. Several people were killed right in front of me," he said. "I ran and survived. Death follows you as long as you're in Gaza."

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 4,149 people have been killed in the territory since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, taking the overall toll to 54,381, mostly civilians.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

প্লাস্টিক ব্যবহারে সতর্ক হোন

বহুল ব্যবহৃত পিইটি (PET) বা টাইপ ১ প্লাস্টিক যথানিয়মে ব্যবহার না করলে মারাত্মক স্বাস্থ্যঝুঁকি হতে পারে।

একই পিইটি প্লাস্টিক বারবার ব্যবহার করবেন না। এটি বারবার ব্যবহার করলে শরীরে মাইক্রোপ্লাস্টিকের বিধক্রিয়া সৃষ্টি হতে পারে।

পিইটি প্লাস্টিক সর্বোচ্চ ৭০° সেন্টিগ্রেড তাপমাত্রা সহ্য করতে পারে। এতে গরম চা/কফি পরিবেশন করলে প্লাস্টিক গলে গিয়ে স্বাস্থ্যঝুঁকি সৃষ্টি হয়।

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