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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

Dhaka, Beijing vow deeper cooperation

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and China have pledged a comprehensive strategic partnership to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity and development.

The two countries made the resolve during the official visit of Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to China, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

The foreign minister yesterday held a meeting with Chairperson of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Wang Huning in Beijing.

The two sides reviewed the growing bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the steady progress of cooperation under the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

They also reiterated their commitment to further strengthening collaboration in the areas of trade, investment, connectivity and development for mutual benefit.



A sudden downpour catches commuters off guard, leaving many stranded in mounting traffic congestion in the capital's Karwan Bazar area last evening.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt mulls law against sexual harassment at workplace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering the enactment of a law to prevent sexual harassment at workplaces.

This issue was discussed during the session related to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on the fourth day of the Deputy Commissioners' (DC) Conference yesterday, according to Cabinet Division sources.

The four day conference began on Sunday at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

Yesterday, discussions were held across eight sessions covering 12 ministries and divisions, including the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

An official who attended the meeting noted that although the issue of workplace sexual harassment has been highlighted multiple times, no specific laws have been enacted.

Due to the absence of a strong legal framework, many

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



Govt procuring vaccines on large scale: minister

1.5 million doses of measles-rubella vaccine arrive

The decision to procure vaccines through open tender had been cancelled, and instead the government opted for direct procurement through Unicef, which is being implemented swiftly.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain yesterday said the government is procuring vaccines on a large scale to strengthen the country's immunisation programme.

He made the comment while receiving 1.5 million doses of tetanus and diphtheria (TD) vaccine, supplied through Unicef, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

The vaccines arrived on a regular Qatar Airways flight, said a health ministry press release.

Briefing journalists there, the minister said although the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) had been affected by certain decisions of the previous government, the current administration was giving it the highest priority.

He also said the decision to procure vaccines through open tender had been cancelled, and instead the government opted for direct procurement through Unicef, which is being implemented swiftly.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

IRAQI FIELD IN DHAKA

A playground in name, market in reality

Makeshift stalls spread across the field, with little room left for kids to play

DIPAN NANDY

The historic Iraqi Field, adjacent to Azimpur New Paltan Lane in Dhaka, which had once been a spacious playground, is now overrun by makeshift markets, depriving children and residents of a vital breathing space in the densely packed city.

At nearly four acres, Iraqi Field is a privately owned land and is not included in the development plans of the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

According to locals, the ground once belonged to members of an Iraqi community who lived in the area long ago. As their descendants no longer reside there, the field remains without formal caretakers. Part of it serves as a graveyard,



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN



where members of the Iraqi community were buried in the past. Dhaka's shortage of playgrounds has long been a pressing issue. Experts estimate that the number of usable fields in the capital is only about 5 percent of what is necessary.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Bureaucratic delays hinder investment

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said Bangladesh's political situation has improved compared to the past and expressed hope that sustained stability would pave the way for stronger economic growth, increased investment, and job creation.

"We believe that if we can ensure stability in the country, we will be able to move forward with our goals of economic development through increasing investment and creating employment opportunities," he said at a seminar titled "Cooperation on Markets, Policy, Alignment, Security, and Sovereignty".

The Institute of Strategy and Tactics Research (ISTR) organised the seminar at a hotel in the capital.

Fakhrul, also BNP secretary general, said government initiatives such as family cards, farmer cards and canal excavation programmes have created hope among the people.

However, he identified slow bureaucratic processes as a major obstacle to investment, noting that delays by government agencies often discourage foreign investors.

The pace at which our agencies handle investment issues creates a negative situation. "Foreign investors become frustrated. This has become a major problem," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



HC questions decision to cancel Monira Sharmin's candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning the legality of the Election Commission's decision to cancel the candidacy of National Citizen Party (NCP) Joint Convener Monira Sharmin for women's reserved seat in the 13th National Parliament.

In the rule, the court asked the EC and the government to explain why the cancellation of Monira Sharmin's nomination paper should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Razik-Al-Jalil and Justice Debashish Roy Chowdhury passed the order following a writ petition filed by Monira Sharmin challenging the cancellation of her candidacy.

Lawyers Mohammad
SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

ICT-2 asks Inu's defence to resubmit his statement

Ex-DIG Jalil seeks to become state witness in Shapla case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday asked former minister Hasanul Haq Inu's defence counsel to withdraw his client's written statement and resubmit it with corrections, after the prosecution said parts of the statement amounted to contempt of court.

The tribunal's directive came after the defence admitted their mistake and sought an apology from the tribunal after it asked Inu's defence to explain the matter.

After court proceedings, prosecutor Mizanul Islam told journalists, "The most serious remark he (Inu) made in his statement was, 'Will the court's verdict change because of my statement? Then why should I say anything?'..."

"In other words, he challenged the court, implying that the court does not deliver its own verdicts - that the decisions come from elsewhere, from someone else," Mizanul added.

The prosecution brought the issue to the tribunal's attention while placing arguments in a crimes against humanity case against Inu following the conclusion of the defence argument.

Meanwhile, defence counsel for former deputy inspector general of police Abdul Jalil Mondal

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



MEALS FOR GOOD DEEDS... Rickshaws line the street as drivers queue for lunch at "Bhalo Kajer Hotel," which offers low-income people a free meal in exchange for a daily good deed. Launched in December 2019 under Youth for Bangladesh, the initiative continues across several Dhaka neighbourhoods, promoting kindness while supporting livelihoods. The photo was taken at Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN