



## No anti-bilateral steps for Tipai dam

Manmohan assures Hasina at talks on sidelines of NAM summit; Dipu Moni stresses detailed Indian study involving Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday assured Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that New Delhi would not take any step regarding their planned Tipaimukh Dam that might affect the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India.

Hasina informed journalists accompanying her of the outcome of her meeting with Singh on the sidelines of the 15th Non-Aligned Movement Summit, reports UNB from Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Hasina said the friendly relations between the two countries would remain unaffected and the two countries would move forward maintaining their own

dignities.

The prime minister had the meeting with her Indian counterpart at Jolie Ville Golf Resort meeting room on the sidelines of the NAM summit, mainly discussing issues of bilateral interest.

The meeting took place at a time when there have been controversies in Bangladesh over the Tipaimukh dam planned by India on the common river Borak.

After the meeting with Manmohan, Hasina also had bilateral meetings with Chairman of Sate Council of Oman Yahya Mahood Al Moudhry and Filipino President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Jordanian Prime Minister Nader AL Tahavi also had a bilateral meeting with

Hasina when they discussed matters of mutual interest.

DIPU MONI MEETS SHASHI THAROOR Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said India should not further proceed with its plan to construct Tipaimukh Dam without a comprehensive study involving Bangladesh side, our diplomatic correspondent reports.

Talking with Indian State Minister for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor during a meeting in Egypt, she also said recent baseline declared by India for its sea border with Bangladesh was "very aggressive" and sought immediate rectification.

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Unite to fight climate change, recession, terror

Hasina tell NAM leaders  
UNB, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for united approach of the Non-Aligned Movement grouping to deal with climate change, world economic recession and terrorism as the present-day world faces these three-pronged problems on way to progress.

The Bangladesh prime minister made the call in her country statement while presiding over the plenary session of the 15th NAM Summit after the opening of the meet at Maritim Congress Centre in the seafront resort city of Egypt.

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## Mauritius to send back RMG workers

Gives no reason for sacking several thousand Bangladeshi workers; ministry still in the dark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Mauritius government has decided to send back, by the end of this year, several thousand Bangladeshi workers working mostly in the African nation's readymade garment and textile industries.

The authorities however gave no official reason for the decision, but textile companies of the island country said they were asked by the authorities to sack Bangladeshi workers and repatriate them to their homeland, according to a recent report of Africa News, a Port Louis based online newspaper.

"I am persuaded that the government will reconsider its decision, the industrial sector needs those workers," Bangladesh Honorary Consul in Mauritius Ganny Joonas however said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is totally unaware of the Mauritian decision.

"No, we have no information about sending back of workers from Mauritius. Rather I know, that country will hire more workers from Bangladesh," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister of Bangladesh Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star.

He said he will check the authenticity of the news immediately.

Bangladesh sent around 12,000 workers to Mauritius since 1992, mostly in readymade garment and textile industries.

The African nation's decision comes when thousands of Bangladeshi workers reportedly lost jobs in Malaysia, Singapore, and Dubai. Malaysia cancelled work visas of 55,000 workers early this year.

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Oblivious to the dangerous thing he is doing, this child cleans stove parts dipping them in acid on the bank of Buriganga in Keraniganj and blowing them with his mouth.

PHOTO: SHAFIUL ALAM

## Child labourers exposed to acid

They work in stove burner factories without protection, earn Tk 200-250 a week

EMRAN HOSSAIN

As darkness descends on the Buriganga river, Tauhid begins blowing sulphuric-acid-dipped nozzles of stove burners in bare mouth being completely unaware of the corrosive impacts the acid would leave on his body.

Tauhid tests several hundreds of such burners throughout the evening with his uncle, none of them wearing any precautionary measures.

Physicians say acid as a corrosive substance would cause deep burns and damages to different parts of the body including kidneys and corneas of the eyes.

But it is life risk for the children who work at such factories only for Tk 200-250 a week.

There are at least 25 such factories producing stove burners in Keraniganj. Many of them have no names, leave alone registration, and employ mostly children for the hazardous work.

Tauhid takes the risk in vain as he would not get any money in return. He is just helping his uncle Khokon, who is trying to establish his factory in Tinpatti in Keraniganj near the bank of the Buriganga.

Khokon has five employees including three children who work over 12 hours a day at his yet-to-be-named factory. Tauhid works from 9:00am till 7:00pm six days a week. He sometimes does overtime for three more hours if it is necessary.

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## Price of water on Wasa lorry doubles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) doubled the price of one lorry of water with effect from yesterday.

The price hike comes when Wasa is struggling to meet the demand for water in the city.

The price of one lorry of water (5,400 litres) was increased to Tk 400 from Tk 200, said Chief Engineer of Wasa Mohammad Nurul Haque.

"We increased the price to Tk 400 since the previous price was fixed at least 10 years ago," he said, adding that the price was fixed following a recent decision of the Wasa board.

Nurul said a committee, led by himself, had suggested that price of each lorry of water be fixed at Tk 662 after considering water and transportation costs. But the board fixed the price at Tk 400.

There are allegations that some Wasa officials and employees concerned with

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## Govt yet to pick law for BDR trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is in a dilemma over which law the trials of the February 25-26 BDR mutiny and carnage will be held under.

An inter-ministerial meeting sat yesterday to decide on the matter but failed to make any decision as loopholes of different laws were pointed out in the meeting. They, however, decided to scrutinise the laws elaborately, a meeting source said.

"The meeting decided to scrutinise the laws so that none can challenge the verdicts of the mutiny cases in the High Court," said the source.

In a post-meeting briefing at the Bangladesh Secretariat, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said, "We did not make any decision today because there are some legal complexities. After scrutinising the laws, we will make a final decision on July 27."

The meeting was adjourned till 4:30pm July 27.

The two-hour-long meeting chaired by the law minister discussed whether the trial could be held under the army act, the Bangladesh Rifles act or other conventional laws. It also discussed possible legal complications of holding the trials under these laws.

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## Speaker has a lot on his plate

ACC, SQ Chy issues call for his careful verdict

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Speaker Abdul Hamid is facing a host of pending issues that need to be addressed carefully because of their political importance like scrapping parliament membership of BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The issues also include refusal of former and present high officials of Anti-Corruption Commission to appear before a parliamentary body and disqualification of lawmakers following a Supreme Court verdict for continuing as MPs as they were municipality mayors at the

time of parliamentary election.

The speaker discussed the matters with the members of the parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings at a meeting at his office yesterday. The committee members requested Hamid on June 2 to ensure that the previous ACC chief and the two incumbent commissioners appear before it.

Meeting sources said the speaker told the lawmakers that he would consult with Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed and Attorney

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## 168 people killed in Iran plane crash

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian airliner en route to neighbouring Armenia caught fire mid-air and crashed in farmland yesterday, killing all 168 people on board in the worst air disaster in Iran in recent years.

Witnesses and state media said the Caspian Airlines plane was ablaze before plunging into the ground and exploding near a village northeast of Tehran shortly after taking off from the capital's international airport.

Television images showed a vast crater at the disaster site littered with debris of plane parts, shoes and clothes.

"All people aboard... the crashed plane are dead. The plane had 153 passengers and 15 crew members," said Mohammad Reza Montazer Khorasan, head of the health ministry's disaster management centre.

Among those on board the Tupolev were about 25 Armenians, according to an airline representative in Yerevan, while Iranian officials said they included 10 members of Iran's junior national judo team.

"I saw the plane when it was just...above the ground. Its wheels were out and there was fire blazing from the lower parts," witness Abolfazl Idaji said, according to the Fars news agency.

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Dhaka, July 2009

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