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"DESTINIES INTERLINKED"

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh talks to the Prothom Alo editor

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TRANSIT AND TRADE

Rehman Sobhan focuses on two crucial factors of Indo-Bangla ties

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LIBYAN CONNECTION

UK PM calls for probe into alleged link of MI6 in the rendition of terror suspects

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Vegetarian can't wait for hilsa

BSS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said the widely talked about deliciousness of Bangladesh's hilsa fish might prompt him to break his vegetarian status. "I am willing to break my vegetarian vow because I have heard about the delicious dish of hilsa fish," he told Ihsanul Karim, chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), in a lighter vein as the issue

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Teesta treaty uncertain

Delhi takes time as Mamata says 'no' to deal; Dhaka hopeful, ready to receive Manmohan with all warmth today

REZAUL KARIM

A warm welcome awaits Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who flies into Dhaka this forenoon on a two-day visit aimed at giving a new impetus to the bumpy relations between the two neighbours.

Manmohan's visit to Bangladesh, first by an Indian prime minister in 12 years, suffered a damper after a last-minute drama from Paschimbanga (West Bengal) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cast doubt over the sign-

ing of Teesta water-sharing treaty.

Bangladesh, however, played down the uncertainty over the deal, citing that no official communication was made by India. Till the filing of this report at 2:00am today, Dhaka held on to the hopes given earlier by New Delhi, turning a blind eye to the headlines made by Mamata across the border yesterday.

The deal that reportedly provided for 50-50 sharing of the river water met protests from Mamata who was so upset that she pulled



out from the entourage of Manmohan.

New Delhi bowed to Mamata, whose Trinamool Congress is a key component of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government in the centre.

"Nothing will be done without acceptance by West Bengal," Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai told journalists in New Delhi.

This came as an embarrassment for Manmohan and wasted

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Transit on, but will take time

Muhith says facility not ready yet

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Finance minister AMA Muhith has said it is not possible to provide transit facility to India before next year as related work could not be completed.

"We will take time and do not want to do anything in a hurry," Muhith told The Daily Star at his secretariat office yesterday.

He, however, said some deadlines for giving different transit facilities, including use of Chittagong and Mongla ports, will be fixed during the Indian prime minister's Dhaka visit.

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told a press conference that no transit deal will be signed during Manmohan Singh's visit but a letter of exchange will be

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Reasons for U-turn

STAR REPORT

Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has thrown a wrench into the signing of Teesta water-sharing treaty, claiming she has not been consulted about the final draft of the deal.

Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai yesterday said no agreement will be signed without consultation with the West Bengal government, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Mathai was speaking at a press conference at the external affairs ministry on the eve of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka.

He said, "The subject of water is a sensitive issue. We have been trying to arrive at an agreement on Teesta, which is acceptable to all parties."

"In our federal scheme of things, nothing is done or will be done without consultation with

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NO DEALS FOR NOW

1. Teesta, Feni river sharing
2. Transit

DEALS FOR NOW

1. Comprehensive framework agreement on cooperation
2. Letter of Exchange agreeing to allow India to use Chittagong and Mongla ports and establish regional transit connecting Nepal and Bhutan

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COMMENTARY

Will Indian PM make history or repeat history?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Will Prime Minister Manmohan Singh make history during his trip to Bangladesh starting today or repeat the tragic record of missed opportunities and mutual suspicion that marked Bangladesh-India relationship since the mur-

der of Bangabandhu in 1975 but set on track by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi in January 2010.

Last moment controversy and confusion regarding signing of the Teesta water sharing treaty during Manmohan Singh's visit come as a

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BNP not against India

Khaleda to tell Manmohan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During her meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will try to assure him that she is not against India as a whole but against certain policies, party sources said. A number of BNP leaders in return for anonymity told The Daily Star that Khaleda will also stress the need for considering public sentiment before signing any deals.

The leader of the opposition in parliament will meet the Indian prime minister tomorrow afternoon at the latter's Hotel Sonargaon suite.

Ahead of that meeting, SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Argentina football superstar Lionel Messi (C) shakes hands with a young fan during the team's arrival at hotel Ruposhi Bangla at noon yesterday. The Argentina team is in the city for their international friendly against Nigeria, which kicks off today at 7:00pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Stories in Star Sport

Skipper Shakib, deputy sacked

Cricket board acts on Zimbabwe tour debacle

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal have been removed as Bangladesh captain and vice-captain respectively following the Tigers' disastrous performance on the recent tour to Zimbabwe.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's announcement came yesterday after the meeting of the directors who came down heavily on Shakib and his deputy for their failure as leaders both on and off the field while discussing the Zimbabwe debacle.

In December last year both had been appointed captain and vice-captain for the current year, but BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus said that they had no other choice than taking the hardline to cut short their tenure.

Yunus informed that the name of new captain and



Shakib Al Hasan



Tamim Iqbal

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30-hr trip schedule

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 11:55am.

The Indian leader will be presented a 19-gun salute and a guard of honour by a contingent of army, navy and air force troops.

A 136-member official delegation will accompany Manmohan including the chief ministers of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, whose Trinamool Congress is the second largest ally of the United Progressive Alliance, cancelled her

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'On occasion of Indian PM's visit to Bangladesh'
Wishing peace and prosperity for long time to
The Republic of India and The People's Republic of Bangladesh

