

Successes dimmed by Mamata

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they in their reports and editorials have come up with speculations about the reasons of Mamata's objection.

Some dailies, however, held responsible National Security Adviser Shibshankar Menon for failing to tackle the situation. He communicated with the chief minister on behalf of the central government.

The Hindu in its editorial on Tuesday said Mamata's row on the eve of prime minister's visit to Dhaka has set a new low in the shaping of India's foreign policy.

It questioned when New Delhi had been describing the Teesta pact as a crucial component of the visit, why did Mamata wait until the last minute to denounce the deal? "Although the specific

objections are unclear, the state government is said to have found the agreement 'detrimental to the interests' of West Bengal," the editorial mentioned, adding there is also speculation that the decision was prompted by Mamata's difference of opinion with the central government over the state's financial allocation.

Kolkata-based Anandabazar Patrika in a report yesterday said Mamata was "surprised" at the last moment objection of the chief minister.

Asked whether he would give any political envoy the responsibility to convince Mamata, the prime minister said he himself had been in contact with Mamata and wanted to follow her suggestions.

"The security adviser also

kept contact with Mamata. After discussions with her, Menon informed me that there was no problem with the deal. This led us to confirm the draft," said Manmohan.

Mentioning that Trinamool minister Dinesh Trivedi first raised objection on the Teesta deal at a meeting of cabinet committee on political affairs, the prime minister said he again sent Menon to consult the chief minister.

Mamata again objected for some other reasons, the report said quoting Manmohan. But the PM did not clarify the reasons.

The Telegraph in its yesterday's issue reported that although the two countries signed 10 agreements and memoranda of understanding on Tuesday, the deals

were overshadowed by the Teesta deadlock.

Manmohan described his maiden visit to Bangladesh as "very satisfying", the report mentioned. "It would have been better had the Teesta deal been signed."

The Statesman in a report headlined "Teesta discord rocks Indo-Bangla boat" in its September 7 issue gave a different view. It said the Bangladesh government did not sign the transit protocol as a tit for tat response.

Manmohan's two-day visit was marred by New Delhi's last-moment decision against signing the Teesta treaty in the face of stiff opposition from Mamata.

She torpedoed the deal saying it goes against her state's interests.

It's total failure

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submit as the country yielded nothing worthwhile from the so-called historic treaties. Even the trust between the two countries has been damaged," BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

"The prime minister and her office wanted to sign the deals relying only on two people, leaving in the dark everyone, even the other components in the ruling grand alliance," the opposition leaders said.

Asked who the two persons might be, some opposition leaders said it is the PM's advisers -- Mashiur Rahman of economic affairs and Gowher Rizvi of international affairs.

"It's not true that the transit deal was scrapped

centring the Teesta issue. The government already has given transit to India and only a letter of exchange has to be signed for its implementation," Fakhru also claimed, replying to a query.

He was addressing a press briefing held at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital to come up with the party's formal reaction on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tour that ended Wednesday.

The Indo-Bangla summit totally failed also for the government's diplomatic inadequacy, lack of coordination, inefficiency and closed-mindedness, he added.

"The opportunity, created through the visit of Indian prime minister, to resolve the problems between the two neighbour-

ing countries, has been completely wasted due to the government's weak diplomacy," Fakhru said.

"The people expected a deal ensuring equal water-sharing of all common rivers including the Teesta, a righteous step on border killing and positive measures in reducing trade deficits between the two nations," he continued.

"People also expected an announcement to stop the construction of Tipaimukh dam and dealings like overland transport connectivity in the southeast region of Asia."

"The interest of the country has been ignored while Indian side's has been served in the deals and memorandums of understanding," he said.

It is mandatory to submit

the international treaties before the parliament but the government violated it, he said.

Warning that people will not accept if there is any anti-state content in the deals, Fakhru spoke of forging an anti-government movement.

BNP Vice-Chairman Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury, chairperson's advisers Sabihuddin Ahmed and Abdul Qaium and journalist Shafiq Rehman were present at the press meet.

Shamsur Mobin, however, considers duty-free access of 46 more Bangladeshi products to India as a forward step but says yet many things have to be done to reduce the huge trade deficit with the neighbouring country.

Visit to bring benefits

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said yesterday. He said the 10 deals signed during the visit were highly important and implementation of those will bring mutual benefits.

Mijarul mentioned the agreements on exchange of enclaves and adversely possessed lands, demarcation of 6.5 km border and 24-hour access of Bangladeshis through Tin Bigha corridor. Teesta water sharing

agreement could not be inked as India was not prepared, he said.

"But they (India) are committed to sign the agreement and we are hopeful of an agreement within next few months," the foreign secretary said adding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoped it would be signed in next three months.

He said the Teesta deal will be signed on the basis of equity, and the terms and

conditions for the agreement will remain unchanged. "We are not going to discover any new formula," he added.

When asked why the letter of exchange on transit and port facilities to India was not signed, the foreign secretary said it needed more work.

He said there were a total of 18 specific matters up for signing/protocols or Memorandum of Understandings, but finally

10 deals were inked, and remaining will be done later.

The foreign secretary said signing of the comprehensive "Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development" is a historic instrument that outlines the shared vision for long-term cooperation.

Besides, duty-free access of 46 Bangladeshi textile items to Indian is a great achievement, he said.

Aug 21 cases shifted

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while the case filed under the Explosive Substances Act was at the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

Earlier in the day, the home ministry sent letters asking the two trial courts to shift the cases to the tribunal for next course of action.

According to the provisions of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act, the trial of any case has to be disposed of within 135 workdays.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, however, had earlier opined that if any speedy trial tribunal cannot dispose of any case within the stipulated time, the tribunal can continue trying the

case until finalisation of the judgment.

Twenty-four people including Awami League (AL) leader Ivy Rahman were killed and around 200 others injured in the grisly grenade attack on an AL rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

The then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attack.

Earlier on September 4, 2008, the two cases were shifted to the same tribunal for their quick disposal. Later, Judge Masdar Hossain of the tribunal recorded statements of 61 prosecution witnesses.

The tribunal, however, sent back the cases to the Sessions Courts as it could not complete their trial

procedures within the stipulated time.

Meantime, the tribunal on August 3, 2009 ordered a fresh probe into the cases following applications submitted by the prosecution for finding out sources of origin of grenades used in the attacks.

Earlier on July 3, Criminal Investigation Department submitted the supplementary charge sheets against 30 including Tarique and 29 others.

Besides, former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and 20 others were charged in the previous charge sheets.

CLIMATE CHANGE Pacific summit sounds alarm

AFP, Auckland

Pacific leaders identified climate change as the greatest threat to the region yesterday, ordering officials to start work on plans to help people forced to relocate by rising sea levels.

The 16-nation Pacific Islands Forum said the impact of climate change was already apparent in countries such as Kiribati, where some villagers have had to abandon their homes as the seas rise.

During his visit, the UN leader said he had seen the effect of global warming first-hand during a visit to Kiribati and it had reinforced his belief that climate change was a reality.

Orion given largest project

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Orion had offered a 25-year levelised tariff of US\$5.84 cents per kilowatt hour for 522 MW power. Its nearest competitor S. Alam Steel Ltd and Lanco Infratech sought a tariff of 8.55 cents.

The 1998 AES Meghnaghat gas-based power project offered a tariff of 2.78 cents that no other companies could match in recent years.

The joint venture company will build, own and operate the plant. The power ministry in its proposal to the cabinet purchase committee said in the 25 years of its operation, the plant is expected to sell electricity worth Tk 12,450 crore.

It will use imported coal to produce power.

The plant will start commercial power generation 45 months after the signing of contract with the government.

Orion Group was picked up from two qualified bidders in June. Earlier in an open

tender for the project floated by Power Development Board, five power companies qualified to participate in the bid.

An Orion source says they will use brand new equipment from the best international manufacturers. The boiler, turbine and generators-- which are the major equipment--will come from the best European sources. The company will assign a Chinese contractor for installation of the plant.

"Financing of the project will be made through Export Credit Agencies (ECA) of Europe and China. A couple of financial institutions of the Middle East are also interested to provide funds for this project," says the Orion source.

Orion has already procured 31 hectares of land at Mawa and another 31 hectares in Khulna for its coal-fired power projects. It is now purchasing land in

Chittagong for another project, he added.

Though a newcomer in power sector, subsidiaries of Orion Group has built two fuel oil-based power projects having 100 MW production capacity each. Both the projects were implemented timely and are supplying electricity to the national grid regularly.

The purchase committee also approved a 108 MW furnace oil-based private power project in Keraniganj to be implemented by CLC Power and Associates. The plant will be set up on its own land.

CLC Power will sell electricity for 15 years at a rate of US 9.88 cents per kilowatt hour. The plant will start commercial operation within a year of signing the contract.

The contract was awarded to the company on the basis of unsolicited negotiation. It originally was awarded a rental power project for a five-

year term.

The company had purchased new plant equipment for the project but it could not supply power as per schedule, and sought government permission to set up the plant as a private project.

Another approved project is a 52.5 MW furnace oil-based one in Munshiganj to be implemented by a joint venture of Peoples Energy and Venture Energy. The joint venture has been awarded contract for the project on the basis of unsolicited negotiation.

The cabinet purchase body awarded deal for another 52.5 MW project to a joint venture of Union Consultants and Venture Energy Resources. The plant will be set up in Comilla for a 15-year term.

Both these plants will sell power at 9.94 cents per kilowatt hour and start commercial operation within one year of signing the contract.

Silver lining in clouds

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Feni Rivers on fair and equitable basis. They directed the concerned officials to work towards concluding the agreements at the earliest.

21. The Prime Minister of India reiterated the assurance that India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely impact Bangladesh.

22. The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two countries on security related issues and reaffirmed their unequivocal and uncompromising position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including insurgency. They reiterated the assurance that their respective territories would not be allowed for any activity inimical to the other and by any quarter.

23. They noted with satisfaction the signing of the Coordinated Border Management Plan during the visit of the Home Minister of India to Bangladesh in July 2011. They expressed confidence that it would enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces of the two countries, and enable them to manage the identified vulnerable areas with a view to preventing criminal activities, illegal movement, acts of violence and loss of lives along the border areas. The Prime Ministers directed the concerned agencies to implement the Plan immediately. They welcomed the decision to henceforth hold annual consultations at the level of Home Ministers.

24. The two Prime Ministers underscored the need to conclude an Extradition Treaty between the two countries expeditiously to complete the legal framework for bilateral security cooperation while expressing satisfaction that the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, signed in January 2010, were now in force following their ratification.

29. Recognizing the need to address factors including non tariff and para tariff barriers and port restrictions that hamper the natural growth of bilateral trade, the Prime Ministers directed

concerned officials to identify and remove all barriers to unfettered bilateral trade.

30. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the opening of Banglabandha-Fulbari Land Port for bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India. They also expressed satisfaction at the Indian initiative to develop seven Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), and noted that this would facilitate trade between the two countries. They directed the concerned officials to hold the meetings of the Sub-Group on Infrastructure so that necessary infrastructure could be developed at the identified Land Ports / Land Custom Stations (LCS) on both sides expeditiously.

32. Welcoming the exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their call for increasing investments including joint ventures in each other's country. They underscored the role of the private sector as very important in bringing qualitative and quantitative change in the development process. The Indian Prime Minister appreciated the announcement of the Bangladesh Prime Minister regarding the establishment of a Special Economic Zone for Indian investments.

33. Both sides agreed to examine the establishment of new land ports / LCS / immigration points to facilitate trade and movement of people.

36. The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the operationalisation of Ashuganj and Silghat as additional Ports of Call under the bilateral Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol. He also expressed his appreciation for the successful commencement of trial run of the bulk cargo for Tripura using multimodal facilities through Ashuganj port. It was agreed that the construction of an Inland Container Terminal at Ashuganj would be expedited and pending that, the port could be used for movement of bulk cargo immediately as far as practicable.

37. Both sides agreed to expedite works for enabling night navigation facilities on the Protocol routes. They agreed to allow movement of containerized cargo by rail and water and to work towards its early

operation.

38. Both the Prime Ministers directed that necessary steps be taken to expedite construction of a bridge over river Feni as per the alignment already agreed between the two sides.

39. The Prime Ministers directed the concerned officials that the MoU regarding development of railway infrastructure at the border point between Agartala and Akhaura should be concluded and the execution of rail line commenced at the earliest.

40. Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed her appreciation to the Indian Prime Minister for amendment of the MoU between the Bangladesh and Indian Railways allowing Rohanpur-Singabad as an additional route for both bulk and container cargo for Nepalese rail transit traffic. Bangladesh side also appreciated the assistance from India for the movement of fertilizers from Bangladesh to Nepal by rail route. They also agreed to re-establish rail connections between Chilahati-Haldibari and Kulara-Mahishashan in the spirit of encouraging revival of old linkages and transport routes between the two countries.

41. The Prime Ministers directed that necessary formalities for the use of Chittagong and Mongla seaports for movement of goods to and from India through water, rail and road should be completed urgently.

44. The two Prime Ministers urged expeditious conclusion of Power Purchase Agreement between BPDB and NTPC for purchase of 250MW power from India by Bangladesh. It was agreed that Bangladesh would procure the additional 250MW of power from the open market in India utilizing the full capacity of the power transmission line being established through inter-grid connectivity at Bheramara and Behrampur.

45. The two Prime Ministers noted that BPDB and NTPC were working towards concluding a Joint Venture Agreement for setting up of 1320MW coal based power plant in Bagerhat. They directed the concerned officials to complete all formalities for operationalising the project expeditiously. They

also directed the concerned officials to undertake necessary steps for conducting feasibility reports for the setting up of a similar 1320MW coal based power plant at a suitable location in Chittagong.

48. Recognizing the urgent need of trained doctors and specialists in the field of healthcare in Bangladesh, the two Prime Ministers agreed to set up a programme for training of Bangladeshi doctors in premier Indian medical institutes.

49. Bangladesh Prime Minister appreciated the concurrence of the Government of India to the opening of a Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Mumbai. In addition, both sides agreed to consider further strengthening diplomatic and consular presence in each other's countries.

55. Recognizing the urgency of protecting and conserving the fragile ecosystem of Sundarban, the world's largest mangrove forest, the two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the signing of the MoU on Conservation of the Sundarban and a Protocol on the Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban. They expressed confidence that the combined efforts of the two sides would lead to the sustenance and preservation of this common heritage.

60. Both Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they also recognized the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies, including the Security Council. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh reiterated her country's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded and reformed UN Security Council. Both sides noted with satisfaction contributions of both countries to UN peacekeeping operations.

65. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh extended an invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to pay a visit to India. The invitation was accepted and it was agreed that the dates of the visit would be finalised through diplomatic channels.

Career Opportunity in International NGO



NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice, an international NGO with its Head Office in Germany, is in search of some highly competent professionals for the Country Office in Dhaka for immediate employment. The positions require frequent field visits to different locations of Bangladesh and occasionally in India.

1. Programme Manager (2): Salary range BDT 70,000-90,000 per month along with one festival bonus and one gratuity equivalent to one month's salary each. Higher salary and designation may be offered to a highly deserving candidate.

Responsibilities: Lead, coordinate and supervise programme activities of different projects under Livelihood Programme of NETZ in Bangladesh and India; ensure quality implementation of economic and social empowerment components relevant for women, ultra poor and plain land Advisis including sustainability factors; provide support to Partner NGOs as per project objectives under the partnership process; contribute to conceptual and strategic development of the programmes with clear focus on people's institution building; provide guidance to maintain team spirit and integrity; ensure a high standard monitoring process and make sure that lessons learnt lead to the improvement of the project; liaise with donors, service agencies, research institutes, universities and government agencies; review Partner NGO reports; contribute to development of reports for donors; coordinate and facilitate capacity building including training & coaching of staff; facilitate review meetings and workshops with stakeholders.

Qualifications: Masters in any discipline related to livelihood from any reputed university. Min. 7 years experience in any reputed national or international NGOs in relevant similar positions with high level of conceptual capacity.

2. Programme Manager, Marketing: Salary range BDT 60,000-80,000 per month along with one festival bonus and one gratuity equivalent to one month's salary each. Higher salary may be offered to a highly deserving candidate.

Responsibilities: Ensure strong conceptual input to planning and improvement of mainly agriculture related value chains for the economic empowerment of ultra poor; facilitate the process of identifying and analysing opportunities to maximise the income from IGAs through sustainable agriculture; capacity building of Partner NGOs staff, counterparts and service providers; facilitate to establish linkage between market actors, government and private sector service providers in the respective region and project participants.

Qualifications: Masters in any discipline related to livelihood and marketing from any reputed university. Min. 7 years experience in any reputed national or international NGOs in relevant similar positions with high level of conceptual capacity.

3. Programme Manager, Research, Documentation and Dissemination: Salary range BDT 60,000-80,000 per month along with one festival bonus and one gratuity equivalent to one month's salary each. Higher salary may be offered to a highly deserving candidate.

Responsibilities: Ensure the institutionalisation of contacts with research institutions and universities; organise and facilitate the research components of the projects on locally adapted ecologically sustainable technologies/methods; systematise sharing of the research results for decision support to the project management and for dissemination to stakeholders of the project and wider public in print and online media; publish handbooks feasible for disadvantaged groups in Bangladesh and India; disseminate lessons learnt of the project; edit narrative reports and provide professional contribution to publications; maintain regular and professional relationship with different stakeholders; provide expertise in designing & conducting research and advocacy strategy; confident & articulate in expressing ideas and conducting workshops.

Qualifications: Masters in Economics/Anthropology/Social Science/other related disciplines; Min. 7 years in any reputed national or international NGOs in relevant similar positions with high level of conceptual and journalistic capacity.

4. Finance Officer: Salary range BDT 40,000-60,000 per month along with one festival bonus and one gratuity equivalent to one month's salary each. Higher salary may be offered to a highly deserving candidate.

Responsibilities: Monitor proper use of grants, compliance of the contract with donor and financial support to project; efficient use of financial and material resources of the projects; prepare & analyse multi-year budget; report and track expenditures of projects; audit Partner NGO funds; train staff; ensure coordination, communication and timely submission of periodic financial reports to Country Office and Head Office.

Qualifications: Masters in Commerce, preferably in Finance/Accounting with 5 years experience in relevant field; CA CC/ACCA (partial) will get preference; 3 years experience in fund monitoring, management, and internal control; computer skills (word processing, spreadsheet and FMIS); good negotiation, leadership, HRM and admin skills; experience on asset transfer programme is an added advantage.

5. Office Assistant: Salary range BDT 8,000-12,000 per month along with one festival bonus and one gratuity equivalent to one month's salary each.

Responsibilities: Support day to day activities (cleaning, photocopying, logistic support and physical communication with different stakeholders) of the admin section of NETZ Country Office.

Qualifications: HSC from any education board with 4 years experience in relevant field; experience in Dhaka based office is an added advantage.

Eligible candidates between 30-50 years having ability to work under pressure and commitment for empowerment of ultra poor, progressive ideals, gender sensitivity, pleasant personality and sound track record of reliability and honesty are encouraged to apply with a CV (max. 4 pages) mentioning results in all exams and a recent photo by post to: NETZ, House 40, Road 4A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209 latest by September 20, 2011. Only short listed applicants will be invited for tests.

NETZ is an equal opportunity employer. Any canvassing is treated as disqualification.