

# PM flies to Tripura today

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This would be the first visit by a head of the government of this country to Tripura, which played a key role during Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The visit is being seen as compliment for the state's outstanding supports to freedom fighters and thousands of distraught people during the war.

The prime minister will be accompanied by a 106-member delegation including Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, her adviser HT Imam, younger sister Rehana Siddique, State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder and prominent political leaders, leading businessmen, journalists and cultural activists.

The Prime Minister's delegation members include 22 prominent political figures and eminent personalities, such as Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, JSD leader Hasanul Haq Inu, Jatiya Party leader Anisul Islam Mahmud and AL Presidium member Kazi Zafrullah, leading journalists Mahbubul Alam, Syed Anwar Hossain, Shyamal Dutta, Abed Khan, cultural activist Nasiruddin Yusuf, Mohammad Samad of Dhaka University, Prof Shafi Ahmed of Jahangir Nagar University.

AK Azad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Abdul Matlub Ahmed, president of Bangladesh-India Chamber of Commerce, Abul Kashem Ahmed, Vice-President of SAARC Chamber, and top executives of the business houses having trade with India will be, among others,

in the 38-member business delegation.

As per the programme schedule, Hasina will depart for Tripura on a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at 2:50pm and reach Singerbil Airport in Tripura at 3:30pm (DST).

She will be received by Union minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal on behalf of the Indian government accompanied by Governor of Tripura DY Patil, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, Barendra Higginbotham, Commissioner in New Delhi Tariq A. Karim and high officials of the Tripura state government.

Following a guard of honour at the airport, the PM will move to state guest house Geetanjali at Kunjaban Township in Agartala. She will stay there during her visit.

The governor of Tripura will call on her at 4:00pm (IST) at the state guest house followed by the human resource development minister and the Tripura chief minister.

The PM will participate in an interaction meeting of Bangladesh-India business representatives in Pragna Bhaban at 5:45pm. She will later call on Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari and attend a cultural programme at Raj Bhaban.

In the evening the PM will attend a state dinner hosted in her honour by the Tripura state government at the state guesthouse.

On January 12, Hasina will arrive at the Tripura Central University at 10:00am. She will inaugurate an open-air theatre and unveil a statue of poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari will confer the D.Lit on the prime minister and will address the convocation. This would be the first time that the Tripura university would be conferring Honoris Causa on a person since its inception in 1987.

After the convocation programme, Hasina will attend lunch hosted by the governor of Tripura at Raj Bhaban.

She will also join a civic reception by Tripura Municipal Council at Assam Rifles ground.

The prime minister will leave Tripura at 4:30pm (IST).

## SECURITY MEASURES

A thick security blanket has been thrown around the capital city Agartala in view of the visit of Hasina, reports our New Delhi correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya.

Sanjay Sinha, director general of Tripura Police, said commandos of paramilitary

Tripura State Rifles will provide security to Hasina from Indian side while a contingent of Advanced Security Liaison (ASL), elite force of Bangladesh, would guard the prime minister during the visit.

"TSR Commandos will be engaged along with ASL to protect the VVIP," he said.

BSF sources said additional security forces have been deployed along the 856-kilometre India-Bangladesh border in the state to check infiltration of any untoward elements.

DIG Nepal Das (Police Control) said all possible security measures have been taken in view of her visit and additional forces deployed around vital installations like the Raj Bhaban, which houses the state Governor, the Civil Secretariat, the Assembly house, and the state guest house "Geetanjali".

# Return to JS, raise

**FROM PAGE 1**

was once against it.

If she thinks that elections under the caretaker government are free and fair then she has to accept that the election in 2008 was free, fair and acceptable," Hasina said.

The prime minister also mentioned that AL had favoured caretaker government after its bitter experience of the elections under the then BNP government. "We saw Magura-like election. That's why we demanded the caretaker government," she said.

About the last caretaker government, Hasina said Khaleda had made Iajuddin president, BNP's former foreign affairs secretary the chief justice and extended the age limit to make his chief adviser and superseded Moeen U Ahmed to make him army chief.

"This is not the end, BNP had also included 1.23 crore fake voters in the voter list. You had indulged in a conspiracy," Hasina alleged.

Reaffirming a firm stance against any sort of anarchy in the country in the name of anti-government movement, Hasina said, "We'll help you stage peaceful movement. But please, stop killing people by torching houses."

She warned that bombings in the name of agitation will never be tolerated. "The government will tackle such acts with an iron hand."

Regarding Khaleda's allegation at the Chittagong rally, she said BNP demonstrates anti-Indian attitude when they are in the opposition, but they are very much pro-Indian when they are in power. "What did you do about the Teesta River water sharing when you were in power," she asked.

Hasina said AL never worked against the interests of the country. "We always protect its interest."

She said Khaleda from the Chittagong rally said if they are voted to power, they will ensure development of the country as they did during their previous rule.

"Previous time you had just bogged down into corruption, money laundering and patronising militancy and extremism. Are these your development activities? Does Khaleda mean such development when they will be voted to power?"

The prime minister also termed BNP-Jamaat "a group of conspirators" and urged people to resist them as they do not believe in the country's independence and economic emancipation.

"BNP-Jamaat is a nexus of conspirators and they don't believe in the country's independence. This was true in 1971 and it is still true in 2012," she said.

Khaleda is playing an active role to save the war criminals and doing whatever is possible for her to protect them, Hasina said.

Referring to the Comilla City Corporation election, she said, "This election has

running the Phensidyle business for the last 14 years maintaining a 15-member gang.

Detective Branch (DB) personnel arrested them and nine members of the gang at Khilgaon in the capital with 3,200 bottles of Phensidyle, their truck, their car and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw yesterday.

Hours after the arrest, they revealed to the law enforcers how they became so successful over the years.

Talking to The Daily Star at the DB office, the detained couple narrated various techniques of smuggling of the drug to Dhaka through the border dodging the eyes of the border guards of both countries and the law enforcers in Bangladesh.

Sana Ullah said over the years they supplied Phensidyle to Dhaka from the bordering areas of

# A millionaire veg vendor

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Satkhira and Jessor on his truck. They brought the drug to Dhaka hiding them in fish fry containers and under perishable vegetables.

"We used the cover of fish fry too fool the law enforcers. The fry may die if there were delays on the way. That is why police do not stop fish fry carrying trucks for too long," Sana Ullah said, adding, "Perishable vegetables like tomatoes were also used as cover for the same reason."

He said they have local agents in the bordering areas of Satkhira and Jessor who pay the Indian traders in advance to buy the drugs. He claimed that local agents include chairmen and members of several union parishes in Benapole of Jessor and Debhata in Satkhira.

He said, "The local agents appoint a number of people, mainly women and children, who cross

the border with 100-bottle shipments of Phensidyle by swimming across rivers and canals or through forests and fields."

Relying to a query, Sana Ullah said he eventually became rich and the owner of a four-storey building at Mijmiji of Siddhinganj in Narayanganj flats in the capital, two microbuses, a car, three CNG-run auto-rickshaws, a truck with the money he made from this business.

His wife Rashida said her husband was a vegetable vendor from 1993 to 1998. He joined the smuggling business with the help of one Faruq, now absconding. She herself got involved in 2000.

"After the Phensidyle reaches the capital, I supply them to different spots with our car and the law enforcers do not suspect me since I am a woman," Rashida said.

Mashur Rahman, Senior Assistant Commissioner of DB, who led the drive to arrest them, said Sana Ullah's gang has been supplying around 10,000 bottles of Phensidyle to Dhaka every week.

He said Sana was arrested three times before but he got out on bail and resumed his activity. His wife used to run the business when he was away in jail.

He said they produced the 11 detainees before a Dhaka court seeking 10-day remands for each of them but the court granted only one day in remand.

The other detainees are Jasim Uddin, 27, Liton Hossain, 30, Mohammad Ahsan, 31, Mohor Ali, 28, Osman Ganji, 28, Mosharraf Hossain, 32, Yasin Arafat alias Russell, 26, Mohammad Ishaq, 25, and Mohammad Zakaria, 22.

# Prepaid gas meters put into operation

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Titas is now in talks with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to install another 8,500 prepaid meters in the city.

Md Abdul Aziz Khan, managing director of Titas, said the current price of gas for households using a double burner allows the users to burn 87 cubic metre of gas a month at the cost of Tk 450.

"But we have found that 37 percent of the users under the pilot project are consuming 158 cubic metre of gas a month, while the rest are using less than 87 cubic metre," he added.

The price of gas per cubic metre is Tk 5.16.

Titas has now over 15.60 lakh customers.

Bangladesh has to opt for the prepaid meters amid reports of widespread wastage of natural gas at the household level.

The country's gas reserve is drying up fast. Bangladesh now faces a shortfall of 500 million cubic feet of gas a day (mmcf) against the demand of over 2,500 mmcf, according to the state-run Petrobangla.

"We have received positive response from the customers. They do not have any significant complaints," said the Titas MD. "The prepaid

system will help avoid wastage of the valuable energy and cut complications over due bills."

Khan said Titas plans to install 3 lakh meters at a cost of Tk 350 crore in the next 2 to 3 years. "We are also holding talks with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the ADB for another 3 lakh prepaid meters."

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Engineer Mujib Alif, a resident of Lalmatia, who has set up the new gas meters, said the initiative will help users consume less gas, freeing up the utility

suggested that the government implement prepaid metering in water supply too, so that possible future crisis can be avoided.

Tawfiq-e-Elahe Chowdhury urged the IICT to add a feature to the meter so that people can recharge from home.

He said the government plans to roll out initiative to bring all of the Titas customers under the system. "I personally think that it will take three to four years."

The adviser also defended Titas' decision to charge Tk 50 a meter every month as rent.

Titas will require Tk 2,500 crore to provide meters to all of its customers, said Petrobangla Chairman Prof Md Hossain Monsur, who presided over the ceremony.

He said the meters would allow the low-income group use less gas and thus save money.

Monsur also said they would be ready to supply gas to Rajshahi from January 20 this year.

## Invitation to Tender

<b>1. Procuring agency</b>	Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh Project, (implemented by the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and supported by UNDP)
<b>2. Procurement Method</b>	Open Tendering Method
<b>3. Tender Package Name</b>	Translation of Statutory Legal Texts of Selected 22 Laws of Bangladesh
<b>4. Tender Publication date</b>	11.01.2012
<b>5. Tender Closing Date</b>	30.01.2012 (at 17.00 hours or 5PM)

<b>6. Contact detail</b>	Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh Project, H#-9, R#-51, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Tel. 9892446-7 Email: <a href="mailto:shegupta.shireen@ajbd.org">shegupta.shireen@ajbd.org</a>
	<b>Details of the designated task and terms of reference (ToR) for the vendor</b> may be collected from above contact address.

## INFORMATION FOR TENDER

<b>7. Eligibility of Tender</b>	# Qualified Firms/ Institutions as described in Terms of Reference experience of 15 years in translating legal documents Track record of similar works (details should be provided in the Technical Proposal) Previous experience of the translation of Bangladesh Code or any other legislative instruments.
<b>8. Documents to be submitted with Technical and Financial Proposal in separate envelops</b>	1. Copy of registration certificate/trade license 2. Profile of the translators including Team Leader and other key staffs; and 3. Documents supporting the institutions/firms translation experience. Previous performances against tender proposal, etc.

A pre-bid meeting will be held with the bidders on 19.01.2012 at 3.00 pm at Project Office.

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### INVITATION FOR TENDER

<b>N.B. 1:- Earnest Money:</b> 2% (two) percent of the total quoted price.
<b>N.B. 2:- All the Procurement Processes shall be guided by the Procurement Policy of Teletalk (PPT).</b> Teletalk reserves the right to accept or reject all offers or to delete or change any or whole of the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
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