

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 complement 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 Mahbulul 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 Singerbhil 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, Bangladesh High 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 4:40pm (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 guest house.

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
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

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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 buses."

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 added.

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

proved that the AL government could provide all-out support to the Election Commission to hold free, fair and neutral polls. All elections under this government were free, fair, neutral and acceptable."

She said BNP boycotted the CCC polls protesting the use of electronic voting machine (EVM), but at last their candidate won the election. "What will the opposition leader do now?" she asked.

Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, eminent cultural activist Aly Zaker, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque, acting Dhaka City AL President MA Aziz and General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also spoke on the occasion.

BSS adds: Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday asked the opposition to return to parliament with "specific proposals" on the caretaker government issue and other demands.

Ashraf, also the LGRD minister, reminded the opposition that the Jatiya Sangsad is the only place where the constitution could be amended, if needed.

"In a democratic process, parliament is the main centre of all discussions. Raise your demands and we would cordially accept your legitimate demands," he told reporters after placing wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 32 Dhanmondi.

Ashraf termed the president's dialogue with the political parties to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and other members of the Election Commission "a historic incident" as no government did it earlier in Bangladesh.

He hoped that BNP would join the dialogue with the president and would place their specific proposals in this regard.

A millionaire veg vendor

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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

Satkhira and Jessore 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 Jessore who pay the Indian traders in advance to buy the drugs. He claimed that local agents include chairmen and members of several union parishads in Benapole of Jessore 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."

Replying to a query, Sana Ullah said he eventually became rich and the owner of a four-storey building at Mijmiji of Siddhirganj 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.

Mashiur 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, Mohar Ali, 28, Osman Gani, 28, Mosharraf Hossain, 32, Yiasin Arafat alias Russell, 26, Mohammad Ishaq, 25, and Mohammad Zakaria, 22.

Prepaid gas meters put into operation

FROM PAGE 1
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.

The Institute of Information and Communication Technology (IICT) under Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has developed the meters that cost Tk 5,800 each.

"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 realising 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."

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.

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

for others in the country.

Energy Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin said the country's energy sector is going through a transformation. "There is a gap in demand and supply. We can save a huge amount of gas by improving our demand-side management."

He said Bangladesh would be able to save one-third of its gas if measures aimed at stopping wastage are taken.

IICT Director Prof Dr S M Lutful Kabir hoped that the metering system would help cut wastage and generate more revenues.

State Minister for Power and Energy Muhammad Enamul Huq said if gas can be saved, it could be supplied to many others.

Mentioning that 30 to 40 percent gas is lost during transmission and distribution, BUET Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr S M Nazrul Islam said, "It is not acceptable when the reserve is decreasing."

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, state minister for LGRD,

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

Tawfiq-e-Elahi 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's 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.

VACANCY AT BFTI

The Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI), a trade policy think tank in public-private partnership and a national focal point for international trade related issues, invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of **Chief Executive Officer**.

Job Profile

This is the top-level position in Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute. The position is the administrative as well as the monitoring authority of the programs of BFTI. The Key job responsibilities include:

- Providing innovative ideas to foster the international trade by leading a team of intellectual and generous researchers specialized in international trade;
- Planning the research and identifying the newest research areas;
- Outlining the priorities, trade development planning;
- Outlining the business development goals and objectives;
- Developing and suggesting tools of the trade negotiations and other aspects;
- Outlining the training program for the stakeholders and the government officials depending on the findings of research and ensure timely implementation of training courses;
- Monitoring closely the efficiency of consultancy services provided by BFTI limiting the range of services;
- Coordinating interdisciplinary activities and ensure the information and communication flow within the disciplines through public relations and information wing and through formal official communication;
- Liaising with different government institutions and stakeholders and build a strong network with government departments, international trade bodies and institutes, international trade organizations and mass media;
- Supervising the administrative discipline and recruitment; monitor the finance and accounts of the institute independently;
- Raising issues and concern to the Board of Directors and the Committee of Experts;

Personal Profile

- Advance university degree in Public/Business Administration, Economics, International Relations, International Trade or other related discipline. The incumbent should preferably have a doctoral degree in the relevant field;
- Numerous publications in the reputed national and international journals;
- Skilled in computer operation;
- Training on trade negotiation, trade defense, trade safeguard measures, etc. will be an added advantage;

Experience

- Minimum 15 years experience in human resource (HR) development of which at least 7 years should be in senior administrative management position in local/international/multicultural organization dealing with foreign trade issues;
- Considerable knowledge of Bangladesh and international trade laws and regulations;
- Strong verbal and written Bangla and English communication skills;
- Innovative problem-solving and demonstrated analytical skills;
- Experience in participatory decision-making and overcoming resistance in implementing changed decisions;
- Excellent interpersonal, mobilization, facilitation and trade negotiation skills;
- Strong ability to innovate ideas, understand and analyze foreign trade issues critically in global context and take decision thereon;
- Expertise/experience in economic diplomacy and global trade issues will be an added advantage;
- Training on foreign trade promotion/management will be an added advantage;
- As Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the incumbent shall be responsible for overall planning, organizing and monitoring/supervising researches and policies, administration, management, development as well as ethics of BFTI independently to ensure its viability as a leading think tank of Bangladesh's foreign trade promotion.

Duration : The position is initially for one year with the possibility of extension.

Salary : Attractive remuneration after negotiation.

If your profile fits the above position, you are requested to send a detailed CV with two recent passport size photographs and a cover letter stating suitability for the position, addressed to **Box No. A-03 C/O The Daily Star, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215** on or before **11th February 2012**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. Telephonic inquiries are discouraged.

Invitation to Tender

1.	Procuring agency	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)
2.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
3.	Tender Package Name	Translation of Statutory Legal Texts of Selected 22 Laws of Bangladesh
4.	Tender Publication date	11.01.2012
5.	Tender Closing Date	30.01.2012 (at 17.00 hours or 5PM)
6.	Contact detail	Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh Project, H#-9, R#-51, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Tel. 9892446-7 Email: shegufta.shireen@a2jbd.org Details of the designated task and terms of reference (ToR) for the vendor may be collected from above contact address.
INFORMATION FOR TENDER		
7.	Eligibility of Tender	# 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.
8.	Documents to be submitted with Technical and Financial Proposal in separate envelopes	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.

Teletalk Bangladesh Limited

House No. 41, Road No. 27, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Tel: 8851060, Fax: 9882828


INVITATION FOR TENDER

Teletalk Bangladesh Limited invites the Tender for “**Procurement of USIM Cards for Teletalk under Framework Contract**” from eligible National and International bidders. **The detail information of the Tender along with the detail Specifications are available at www.teletalk.com.bd.** The Tender Schedule will be available for purchase from 11 January, 2012 to 26 February, 2012 within the office hour at Customer Care Desk of Teletalk Corporate Office, Banani, Dhaka. The prospective bidders may purchase the Tender Schedule through applications on their official letter pads. The important information in brief is as under:

Name of Works	Invitation Ref No. & Procurement Method	Tender Closing/ Opening Date	Tender Document Price (in Cash)
“Procurement of USIM Cards for Teletalk under Framework Contract”	TBL/PROC/02/38/2011/06, 09 January, 2012 International Tender (IT)	27 February, 2012	Taka 40,000/- (Taka Forty Thousand only)

N.B. 1:- Earnest Money: 2% (two) percent of the total quoted price.
N.B. 2:- All the Procurement Processes shall be guided by the Procurement Policy of Teletalk (PPT). 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.

DGM (Procurement)
Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd.
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আমাদের ফোন