

India looking

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At the request of Bangladesh government, India is also conducting a feasibility study to turn Ashuganj into a complete river port, apparently to allow transit to India from Kolkata to Ashuganj through waterways and another 48-km road from Ashuganj to Agartala, he said.
The official also said over dimensional cargoes (ODCs), heavy turbines and other machines for 726-MW gas-based thermal power project at Palatana was transported to Tripura through waterways and roads of Bangladesh.
As a show of good gesture, Bangladesh government allowed transportation of ODCs free of cost, he added.
According to Indian TV channel CNN IBN, the North Eastern Council had provided funds for preparing the DPR for development of waterways in north-eastern part of the country.
The project report would

be submitted to the union ministry of shipping and other ministries concerned to formally initiate the process to open new waterways between the two neighbours.
The state government had submitted a proposal to the central government for declaring the Gomti as a national waterway keeping in view the potential of linkage with inland waterways of Bangladesh, said Kishore Ambuly.
The Indian and Bangladeshi waterways connect West Bengal and Assam and the Inland Waterways Authority of India and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority are operating vessels on these routes, official sources said.
Bangladesh and India share 2,979km of land border and 1,116km of riverine boundary and also share 54 rivers, including eight rivers flowing from Tripura.



Tangail police, including the superintendent of police, control traffic in their efforts to ease the post-Eid congestion on Dhaka-Tangail highway on Saturday. PHOTO: STAR

Mr SP, job well done

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
The call of duty is hard to deny. For Saleh Mohammed Tanvir, superintendent of police in Tangail, it was even harder when the job is all about giving at least something back to the people, the taxpayers.
Tanvir, who performed duty like an ordinary traffic policeman for long 19 hours at a stretch, was seen on duty at Elenga around 11:00am on Saturday, holding a stick in his hand to ease the horrible traffic congestion on Dhaka-Tangail highway.
Hours before, he was seen driving away jute vendors occupying the highway at Jamurki in Mirzapur, 20km from Elenga, in a tell-tale sign of his uncompromising effort to bring relief to the passengers from the nightmarish tailback.
He along with police personnel of different ranks in the district had eventually been able to put an end to the 34-hour-long tailback Saturday afternoon.
The law enforcers passed sleepless nights and could not have adequate food and drinking water, and had to forgo lavatory facilities for hours while performing their duties.
"We (police) are struggling hard to ease the congestion. Numerous extra vehicles including unfit ones were operating on the road much above the capacity of the two-lane highway," the SP told this correspondent while on duty at Elenga around 11:00am.
He also requested the local journalists to write about the problems of the highway so that the authority could come up with measures in this regard in future.

JS session begins on Sept 12

UNB, Dhaka
The Jatiya Sangsad will go into session on September 12.
It will be the 19th session of the ninth parliament.
President Abdul Hamid yesterday summoned the parliament session, said a media release of the Parliament Secretariat.
The 18th session of the ninth parliament was pro-rogued on July 16 after 24 working days.
The last session passed the budget for fiscal 2013-2014.

Father, uncle

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of 45 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh Lt Col Ziaul Haque Khaled are accompanying them.
The prosecutor will assist the witnesses at the court.
On January 7, 2011, the 15-year-old girl was shot

dead by a BSF member when she along with her father was scaling the barbed wire fence at Anantapur border point in Phulbari upazila, Kurigram, on their way back to Bangladesh.
Following widespread demands to bring to book the person responsible for her death, the Indian authorities started the trial on August 13.
Meting out exemplary punishment to the guilty party would reduce such murders, Lincoln told a press briefing before leaving Kurigram yesterday.
Indian government might compensate the girl's father, he added.
Felani's father said, "We hope we will get justice."

Restricted, she killed parents

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recovered from their Chamelibagh residence in the capital.
Twenty-two hours later, their teenage daughter showed up at Paltan Police Station. Her friend Mizanur Rahman Rony and house help Khadiza Khatun Sumi were arrested the same day.
Yesterday, a Dhaka court placed the trio on a five-day remand so that police can try to know if anyone instigated the murder.
A sad and devastated Oishee told reporters at the court she disclosed to police the motive of the murder and the names of those involved in it. She would not elaborate further.
"Her parents had imposed restrictions on her movements for over a month before the incident. On July 31, they took away her mobile phone," Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam told reporters at the DMP media centre yesterday.
Earlier, a press briefing was held at the media centre regarding the murder.
The couple did not try to keep knife and sharp objects at their house because they feared Oishee might do something violent, Sumi told police during interrogation.
"Sumi claimed that the knife Oishee used for the murder was not from the house," Monirul said. Earlier, a bloodstained knife and a kitchen knife were recovered by police from the crime scene.
On Wednesday evening, Oishee served her mother

I won't budge

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As per the constitutional provisions introduced in 2011 by the present government, the parliamentary election will be held within 90 days before the expiry of the Jatiya Sangsad's tenure.
This means MPs will remain in office while seeking re-election if parliament is not dissolved before the 90-day deadline. If parliament is dissolved before the 90-day deadline, the election will be held within the next 90 days.
The incumbent prime minister and her council of ministers will be in office during the general election, and there will be no limitation on their functions.
Hasina, also president of the AL, said her party believed in peaceful handover of power through a free and fair election contested by all political parties.
"I hope democratic political parties will move towards elections, shunning the path of anarchy," she said without referring to the BNP-led opposition alliance's threat to wage street agitation and boycott the polls.
She reacted sharply to a query whether her government would move to amend the constitution again on consensus to install a poll-time government.
"Do you want an unconstitutional government again? Do you want martial law? How come you have forgotten what happened in 2007 and 2008?"
"We want to take you to light, but you want to slide back to darkness. If that's what you want, I have nothing to say or do."
Hasina also blasted the opposition BNP for its demand for the restoration of the caretaker government system.
She said the Supreme Court had termed the caretaker government system illegal and the House passed the 15th amendment abolishing the provision.
"So, why inviting trouble to public life by agitating for restoring the provision?"
She also observed that demanding the restoration of the caretaker system was tantamount to disregarding the judgment of the higher court.
Urging everyone to respect the constitution, Hasina said, "The constitution didn't come out of the blue. We got it through much sacrifice during the War of Independence."
When a journalist referred to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's remark that the country's future would

become uncertain if the ninth parliament was dissolved by October 25, Hasina said such fear was unfounded.
"There will be no constitutional crisis. But they [the opposition] want it to happen. They want to create a constitutional crisis," she alleged.
Mentioning that 5,723 elections to different local government bodies and by-polls were held during her government's tenure to elect 63,941 public representatives, the premier told the journalists, "You couldn't say anything against those elections."
"Through those elections we have proved that we believe in democracy."
Hasina said the elections would be held like in other parliamentary democracies.
"The next election is very crucial for continuation of democracy and development. We believe the people will re-elect us in the interest of their welfare and the country's development," Hasina added.
Turning to load shedding, she said her government would increase load shedding so that people could understand how they had been when the crisis of electricity was acute.

Was Diana murdered?

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that she was murdered by a member of the British military.
Scotland Yard said on Saturday that detectives were checking the "relevance and credibility" of information received recently about the deaths of the princess and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed in Paris on August 31, 1997.
They were killed in a car crash in an underpass, along with their driver, Henri Paul, when the Mercedes he was driving crashed as it was being pursued by photographers.
Citing a military source, the Sunday Telegraph said the allegation came from the estranged parents-in-law of a member of Britain's special forces, who gave evidence in the trial this year of Danny Nightingale, an SAS soldier convicted of illegally possessing a weapon.
The man said to be the source of the allegations, known only as "Soldier N" in the trial, was himself convicted of illegal weapons possession.
The newspaper reported that his estranged wife's parents wrote to the SAS's commanding officer claiming the soldier had told his wife that the unit had "arranged" Diana's death and that this had been "covered up".
The information was passed to the police by the Royal Military Police, according to several reports.
Scotland Yard said in a statement: "The Metropolitan Police Service is scoping information that has recently been received in relation to the deaths and assessing its relevance and credibility."
"This is not a re-investigation and does not come under Operation Paget."
Scotland Yard said they were not prepared to discuss the matter further.
Operation Paget was the initial British investigation into claims of a conspiracy to murder Diana and Dodi Fayed that were made by his father, the former owner of the Harrods department store, Mohamed Al-Fayed.
Led by John Stevens, formerly Britain's top policeman, it concluded in 2006 that all the allegations it assessed were without foundation.
The car that Diana was travelling in smashed into a pillar in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel and spun around.
Dodi Fayed, 42, and driver Paul -- the deputy head of security at Al-Fayed's plush Hotel Ritz in Paris -- were pronounced dead at the scene

of the crash.
Diana, 36, the ex-wife of Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, and the mother of Princes William and Harry, died later in hospital.
Trevor Rees-Jones, a member of the Al-Fayed family's protection team, survived. He had been the only person in the car wearing a seatbelt.
Seeking to outrun chasing paparazzi photographers, Paul was found to have been speeding while his blood alcohol level was found to have been more than three times over the French limit.
The longest-running and most expensive inquest in British history concluded in 2008 with a jury finding Diana and Fayed had been "unlawfully killed" by the grossly negligent driving of Paul and following vehicles.
A royal spokeswoman said there would be no comment on the matter from William or Harry, or from Charles's Clarence House office.
The defence ministry also said it was not commenting.
Diana married Charles in 1981 but their already shaky marriage fell apart soon after Harry's birth in 1984, with both sides admitting adultery. They separated in 1992 and divorced in 1996.

Big boost

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Following the initial success in decoding jute (tossa) genome in June 2010, Maqsdul led a team of Bangladeshi scientists in decoding the genome of a fungi, deadly to jute, in September 2012.
The decoding of deshi jute genome has come as another success in knowing better the world's second most important natural fibre after cotton.
Bangladesh is the world's second largest producer of jute, after India, and the world's largest exporter of the fibre.
Maqsdul, who had earlier decoded the genome of papaya in the US and rubber plant in Malaysia, led the sequencing of both tossa and deshi jute genome.
The initiative for jute genome sequencing began in February, 2008 when Maqsdul started exploring the possibilities along with several other Bangladeshi scientists and academics. The whole process was kicked off with many long conference calls between Maqsdul and plant molecular biologists Prof Hasena Khan and Prof Zeba Seraj of biochemistry and molecular biology departments of Dhaka University. Then the lead researcher had several meetings with Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury.
Talking to The Daily Star last night, Dr Monjurul Alam, a scientist at Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), said, "We kept it a secret deliberately when we first decoded tossa jute (in 2010) so that any competitors can't know that we're up for decoding white jute too. Now we can put undisputed claims on decoding both tossa and white jute."
Terming the revelation a great success of the local scientists, the prime minister said, "Our continued success in the research of genome sequence has placed Bangladesh in a dignified position on the world stage."
Using the information on genome sequence, the scientists are constantly engaged in inventing different varieties of jute which would be tolerant to natural adversities and pest attacks, she said.
Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Maqsdul Alam also spoke on the occasion.
The prime minister said her government has taken steps to establish the intellectual property right (IPR) on jute and all scientific research on jute including its genome sequence. She said the present government initiated the Basic & Applied Research on Jute Project (BARJ) by providing necessary funds to improve the productivity and quality of jute fibre by utilising genome information.
Blasting the past BNP government for "destroying the jute sector", Hasina said that in collusion with the World Bank, it closed the jute mills in Bangladesh, the highest producer of jute.
"They (BNP govt) closed the world's biggest jute mills -- Adamjee Jute Mills. Thus the international jute market shifted from Bangladesh to India," she said.
The prime minister said Bangladesh earned about \$ 1.6 billion from jute export last fiscal year and the total earning from this sector was around \$ 3 billion in the last three years.

Restricted, she killed parents

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Swapna a cup of coffee mixed with two sedatives tablets. Swapna soon fell asleep in her bedroom.
Later, around 10:00pm, Oishee called her father Mahfuz from her mother's mobile phone and requested him to come home early.
As he came home, she served him with the sedative-mixed coffee. Mahfuz fell asleep in his daughter's room.
Monirul said Oishee carried out the murders around 2:00am, starting with her father. She then attacked her mother but Swapna woke up shouting, also waking up Oishee, who was sleeping beside her.
While struggling with her daughter, Swapna pushed away her son to save him.
The official added that Oishee, 8, who was taken to DB headquarters for quizzing, told them he remembers Oishee stabbing her mother. But the traumatised child is still unaware of his parents' death.
Locking her brother in the toilet attached to Swapna's bedroom, Oishee later put the bodies in her bedroom's toilet with help of Sumi, who told detectives that she was threatened by Oishee to help her.
Sumi, aged 10-12, also told detectives that she had seen Oishee mix something with the tablets in the evening.
After the murder, changing the SIM card of her mother's phone, Oishee had contacted several people, including Rony and two more male friends.
Rony helped her stay at

Some points to ponder

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of those involved in it. She would not elaborate further.
When police submitted the remand petition, her lawyer, advocate Prakash Ranjan Biswas, told the court that under the Children Act, 2013, a minor could not be placed on remand for interrogation.
He said that the girl was "mentally and physically sick" and therefore was not in a position to face interrogation on remand.
Prakash appealed that she be instead quizzed at the jail gate in presence of her lawyers or guardians. He argued that minors could not be tortured or kept with top criminals.
Under the law, when a child commits a crime he or she should be kept in a safe home under the ministry of social welfare, and the child should be interrogated in presence of the parents or legal guardians.
However, when Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman asked Prakash to produce documents to prove that Oishee was a minor, he could not show any.
The prosecution opposed the argument by Prakash, saying that the charges against Oishee were serious and that she should be placed on remand for further interrogation.
The magistrate then accepted the police petition, but ordered the investigation officer to be careful in interrogating the accused.
Meanwhile, GM Nizamuddin, principal of Oxford International School where Oishee had been registered since 2010 until she dropped out recently, said in the school record her date of birth is August 17, 1996.
This means she was 16 on August 15, the day her parents were murdered.
"Although she is criminally responsible, she is still a minor. This calls for a special set of judicial proceedings under the Children Act, 2013," said Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.
If supporting documents are not available, the defence must demand a medical test to determine her age, he added.
"It is the responsibility of the judge and the police to make sure a medical test is conducted to determine that she is not a minor, otherwise it [the remand] is unjust," said Towhida Khondoker, director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA).
Furthermore, the nature of the case makes it difficult to determine whether she is in a sound mental state -- necessary examinations must be conducted to assess exactly what influence the drugs had on her rationality when she allegedly committed the crime, said the NHRC chief.
Gita Chakrabarty, senior deputy director of the Child Rights Unit of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), urged that Oishee's trial be held in as child-friendly a way as possible.
"This would mean making sure that she is not produced before a full-fledged adult court," she said.
Salma Ali, a child rights activist, demanded that Oishee be given appropriate

Drink

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shoppers on the go all around Taiwan.
Faced with the challenge of competing with larger more established cafe chains, they had to come up with a truly original gimmick in order to attract customers.
All users have to do is uploading a photo from their mobile phone to the coffee dispenser machine and after the cup has been filled with the caffeinated beverage of their choice.
The incorporated printer uses edible ink to sprinkle their photo on the milk foam.
While talented latte artists do a great job of creating beautiful designs using rudimentary tools and a steady hand, there are certain limitations to their techniques, whereas this coffee printer is able to produce photo-realistic images.
According to a promo video released by Let's Cafe, the coffee printer takes a lot of credit for the chain's increase in sales.