



# The Daily Star

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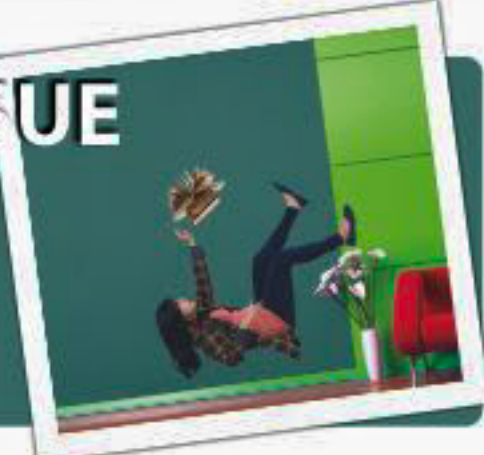
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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



## SEZ UNDER PRIVATE SECTOR

AK Khan Company will build a special economic zone in Narsingdi

PAGE B1

## 'BLASPHEMY'

Pak court jails Veena Malik couple, Geo TV owner for 26 years

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# Trying, sincerely

Modi assures Hasina of land boundary, Teesta deals in bilateral talks

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Kathmandu, Nepal

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday reassured his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina of signing the Teesta water-sharing deal and implementing the Land Boundary Agreement, saying his government was working sincerely on the issues.

"There had been reservations from a few political parties in India about signing the Teesta deal and implementing the Land Boundary Agreement. But problems have been overcome gradually, I hope we will be able to sign the water-sharing treaty soon," the Indian PM was quoted as saying by Hasina's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

However, there was no timeframe for the signing or when implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) will start.

Modi also informed Hasina that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banarjee, who had opposed the signing of the Teesta treaty, now had no objection and that Mamata would come to Bangladesh with him at the time of striking the deal, Iqbal said.

The adviser was briefing the media following Hasina's four separate bilateral meetings with the heads of the government and state of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal on the sidelines of the 18th Saarc summit in Kathmandu yesterday.

In the meetings, all the leaders stressed the need for stronger cooperation to combat militancy, alleviate poverty and make Saarc an effective body.

Hasina invited Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to visit Bangladesh at their earliest convenient time.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 18th Saarc Summit in Kathmandu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP/PIB/ASISH MAITRA

# Saarc fails to fly, again

3 treaties bite the dust despite readiness of India, Bangladesh; experts think reform can make it effective

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Saarc pulled a hamstring, once again. The failure to push through any of the three agreements supposed to be signed at the 18th Saarc summit in Kathmandu yesterday proved the member countries are rather more inter-

ested to go for bilateral deals.

It also exposed that the architecture of Saarc is faulty. Any member country's reluctance on any deal can spoil the whole game as it happened this time with Pakistan staying away from signing the deals.

Such approach to cooperation comes in sharp

juxtaposition with the architecture of the European Union. In the EU, if any country refuses to sign a deal, other members can still go ahead.

Kathmandu showcased what happened over and over in three decades since the birth of the

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MORE STORIES ON PAGE 3

## Hasina, Nawaz discuss power, terrorism

Pak team to visit to see Dhaka's experience

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Kathmandu

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina discussed bilateral matters yesterday on the sidelines of the 18th Saarc Summit in Kathmandu.

Nawaz told Hasina how his country was suffering from acute power shortage, in response to which Hasina explained how her government had successfully addressed the power crisis in the country, PM's media adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury told The Daily Star by phone.

Pakistan experiences four to eight hours' power cuts every day, Nawaz said, adding that his government would send a delegation to Bangladesh to see how the country increased its power generation capacity to meet the demand.

At the 30-minute-long meeting, they also discussed terrorism.

Nawaz claimed Pakistan had once been experiencing severe terror attacks but now it overcame the problem.

Bangladesh curbed militancy with an iron hand, Hasina said.

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

## Expats in KSA may get 5-yr permit to stay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia may extend the validity of work permits (iqamas) of foreigners to five years from one currently.

Over 1.3 million expatriate Bangladeshis in the Gulf country will be benefited if the proposed extension takes effect, said officials at Bangladesh embassy in Saudi Arabia.

"It is still in the proposal stage. When they adopt the system, our people will definitely enjoy advantages. They will be able to work freely for a longer time," Mokammel Hossain, counsellor (labour) at Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah, told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Currently, residency permits are valid for one year and must be renewed for a fee annually.

"The extension of iqama to five years

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Missing out on a deserved century by just five runs was a big disappointment for Bangladesh opener Anamul Haque during the third ODI against Zimbabwe at Mirpur yesterday. But his swashbuckling 120-ball 95 enabled the Tigers to post a massive 124-run win and take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Story on Page 14

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## RISING SUICIDE CASES

# Timely treatment can save lives

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and EMRAN HOSSAIN

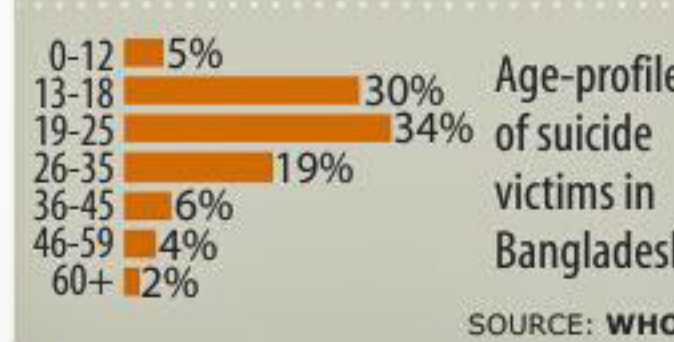
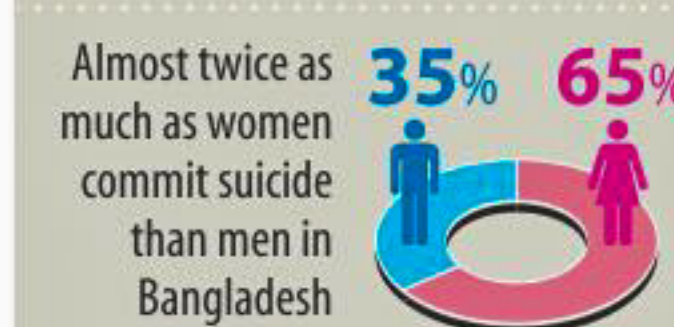
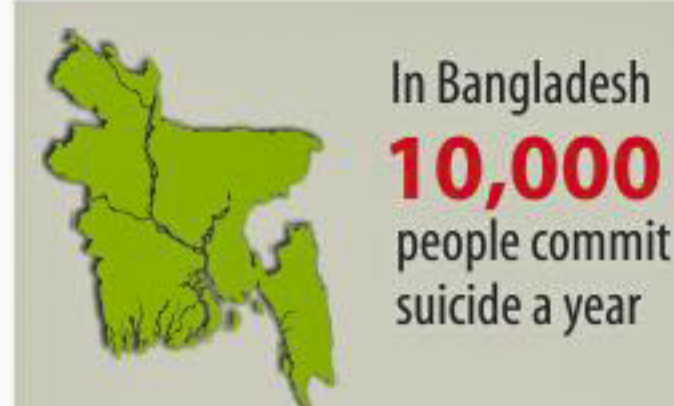
Physicians believe timely medical intervention can save three-fourths of the lives lost in suicides as the phenomenon of taking one's own life showed an upward trend lately.

Psychologists have listed causes behind the rise in the number of people ending their lives. Remedies for preventing suicide are numerous and diverse depending on the victims' socio-economic conditions.

But the bottom line drawn by physicians and psychologists is that the self-killing attempts can be prevented by counselling and providing medical treatment in time.

Surprisingly, in Dhaka, a city of 13 million people, only three of the

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SOURCE: WHO

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