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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Showbiz



## THANKING BANGLADESH

Shashi Tharoor argues why Delhi should give Dhaka its legal rights to territory

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## IN LOVE AGAIN

Putin admits he is in love, fuels rumours over relations with Olympic gymnast Alina

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LAND BOUNDARY DEAL, TEESTA WATER SHARING

## Modi hopeful but gives no timeframe

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday expressed optimism about the implementation of Land Boundary Agreement and sharing of Teesta water.

Without giving any timeframe, Modi told Bangladesh President Md Abdul Hamid that his government is working on resolving the pending issues of LBA and Teesta and is hopeful about an early resolution.

During their half-an-hour meeting at the Hyderabad House in the Indian capital, he also said India was willing to supply more electricity to Bangladesh apart from the 500MW being already given through a trans-border power grid.

Hamid, who is on the second day of his six-day official visit to India, expressed the hope that with Modi leading India, the Teesta water sharing and LBA would be put into effect soon.

He thanked India for supplying electricity and sought New Delhi's cooperation to draw power

from Bhutan and Nepal, Press Secretary to President Ihsanul Karim told reporters.

As the president referred to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to Modi to visit Bangladesh at the earliest possible time, the Indian PM said he wants to make the trip as early as possible.

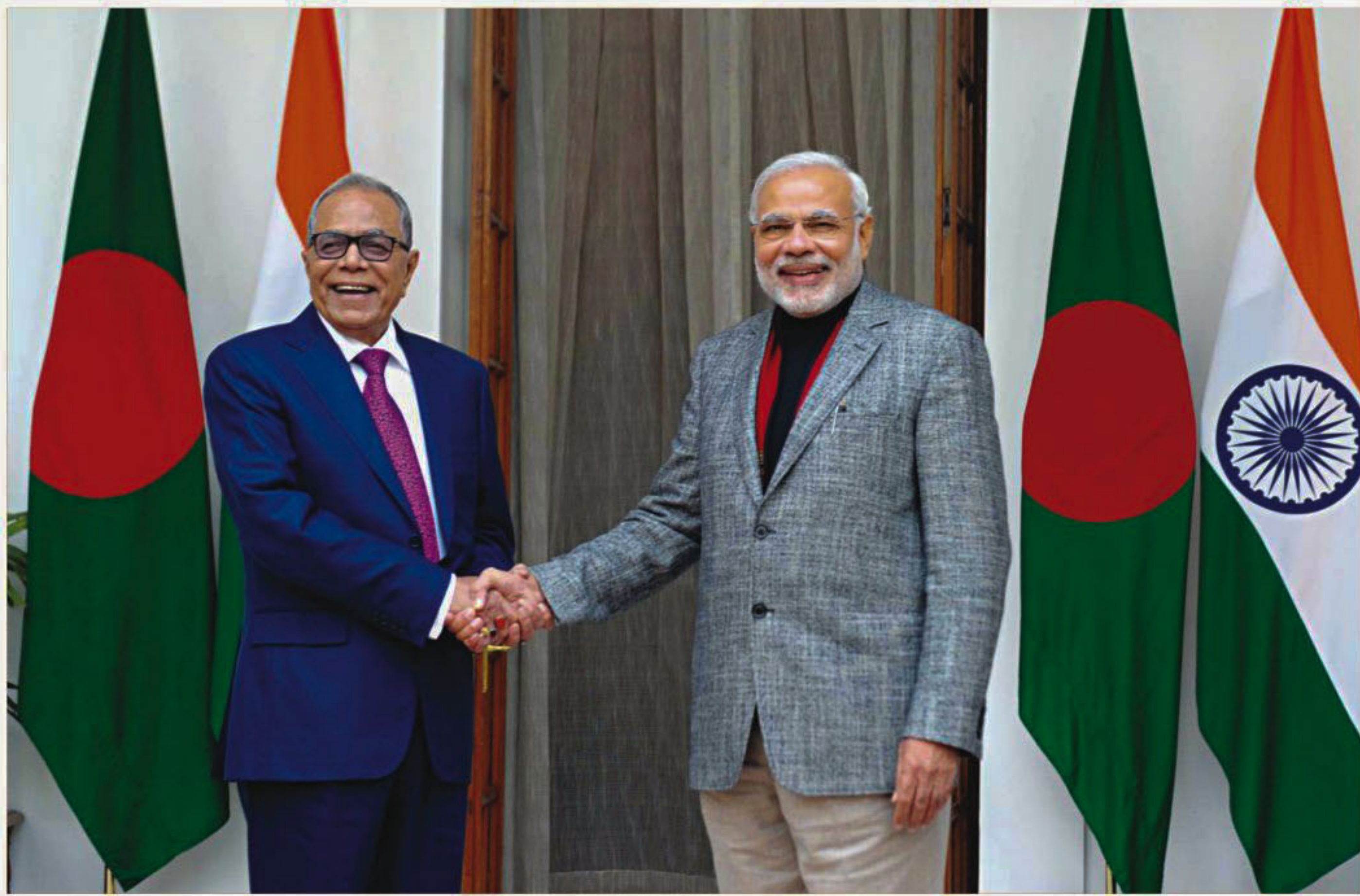
In this context, Modi apprised the president of his two separate "very productive" meetings with Hasina on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September and the Saarc Summit in Kathmandu in November this year.

Both the leaders laid emphasis on enhancing connectivity and communication between India and Bangladesh.

Every Saarc country should make full use of its distinctive advantage in any sector, Modi said, adding all countries in the region should come together to tap them for overall economic development of South Asia.

The Indian PM stressed cooperation in tackling

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President Abdul Hamid meets Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday. The president is on a six-day visit in India.

PHOTO: PIB, INDIA

## LPG subsidy goes down the drain

Customers deprived of benefit as lion's share of BPC's subsidised cooking gas sold at high price

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Government subsidy of up to Tk 75 crore a year, meant to support LP gas (cooking gas) consumers, is being eaten up by a few middlemen for years.

Though these middlemen (dealers) are thriving at the expense of taxpayers' money, the government has done little in the last five and a half years to correct the price of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)-produced liquefied

petroleum gas in line with the market rate.

State-owned BPC sells a 12.5kg LP gas cylinder for Tk 700, while private companies sell a 12kg cylinder for Tk 1,450. This price gap of over 100 percent has been encouraging unscrupulous dealers to sell the entire lot of the BPC gas in black markets.

"Majority of your points is true. Dealers who sell both BPC and private companies' gas eat up the benefits of the

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Subsidised price  
**Tk 700**  
(12.5kg cylinder)

Market price  
**Tk 1,450**

Subsidy **Tk 75cr** a year

Max **15pc** BPC gas  
sold at subsidised rate

## Damage less than initially thought

Says environment minister about oil spill in Sundarbans; Unesco worried

STAR REPORT

The oil spill would obviously cause harm to the ecology of the Sundarbans, but its intensity might be less than what was initially apprehended, said Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Unesco World Heritage Centre, Unesco Dhaka office and the Ramsar Secretariat have expressed serious concern over the impact of the spill on the world heritage area of the Sundarbans.

A UNDP team that had come to extend support to the government's clean-up efforts is scheduled to visit the Sundarbans tomorrow.

The environment and forests minister visited the spot with top forest officials yesterday morning, 10 days after the capsizing of an oil tanker with around 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil in the Shela river.

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## MASS STABBING 8 kids killed in Australia

REUTERS, Sydney

Eight children have been killed and a woman who was mother to seven of them was injured in the northern Australian city of Cairns, police said yesterday, in what several media outlets reported was a mass stabbing.

Australia is in a state of heightened alert after police stormed a Sydney cafe early on Tuesday to end a 16-hour hostage standoff in which three people were killed, including the hostage-taker.

Queensland state police said in a statement they were called to a house in the Cairns suburb of Manoora just before

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## 27 bullet-hit as villagers clash in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 30 people were injured, 27 of them by gunshots, as two groups of villagers exchanged bullets in the district's Singra upazila yesterday morning.

Of the injured, three are undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Their condition is critical. The other injured are receiving treatment at Singra Upazila Health Complex.

Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of Dahia Union Parishad, said there was a conflict between Saiful Islam and Amjad Mollah in Berabari village over catching fish in Chalan Beel, the largest wetland of Bangladesh. They were said to be supporters of the ruling Awami League.

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GLOBAL SURVEY ON POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

## Bangladeshis most active

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has ranked the highest in terms of people's political participation among 33 developing and emerging nations, says a global survey.

The country, however, has a very low political efficacy with over two-thirds of the respondents saying government officials do not care about what the people think, it says.

The survey, titled "Spring 2014 Global Attitudes Survey" by the US-based Pew Research Centre, shows 65 percent Bangladeshis have higher level of involvement in political affairs and 29 percent medium level, though the Asia region ranks the lowest in this field with an overall median of 24 percent. As regions, the Middle East and Africa have relatively high rates of participation in political affairs.

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### BANGLADESHIS IN POLITICS

- 65%** have political participation
- 69%** 'ignored' by govt officials
- 78%** voted in an election
- 48%** attended political events
- 37%** joined organised protest
- 32%** active member of a party
- 31%** participated in strikes
- 80%** for voting to influence govt

SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH CENTRE

## FREEDOM in the air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Pakistani government was successful to a great extent in hiding from the West Pakistanis the massacre its army was carrying out in the East in 1971, but the international media exposed their brutality through series reports.

While mining contents for its special online repository on Liberation War -- 'Freedom in the air', The Daily Star Online gathered rare video footages, photos and reports published in local and foreign newspapers on the atrocities of the occupation army that shook the whole world.

Available at [freedomintheair.thedailystar.net](http://freedomintheair.thedailystar.net), the

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### কিশোরগঞ্জের কটিয়াদীতে

# ৪৩০

তম শাখার

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