



Centenarian Ambia Khatun of Hajiganj in Chandpur is receiving the government fund for elderly people. After she was handed over the Tk 2,000 grant, an emotional Ambia said she was very happy to receive the old-age allowance card in her lifetime.

PHOTO: STAR

Exchange from July 31

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Indian enclaves in Bangladesh exchanged, pursuant to the 1974 Agreement and 2011 Protocol shall stand transferred to the other with effect from the midnight of July 31, 2015," an official document of the foreign ministry said.

July 31 midnight has been chosen as the "Appointed Day".
Before starting the exchange, representatives of the governments of Bangladesh and India will conduct a joint visit to the enclaves to complete the process, as outlined in the letters the two sides exchanged on the modalities for implementing the LBA.

The joint visit is meant to inform the residents of the enclaves, about their rights relating to nationality and citizenship and to identify who wish to retain the nationality prior to beginning of the exchange.

Residents included in the joint headcount of population of enclaves in July 2011 and their children born later have the rights to choose their nationality and citizenship.

The governments of India and Bangladesh agreed to ensure "orderly, safe and secure" passage to residents of enclaves along with their "personal belongings and moveable property" to the mainland of India or Bangladesh, if they wanted.

The joint visit is aimed at collecting data and photographs to issue necessary documents to an enclave resident to facilitate his or her travel to the mainland.

The option of moving from an enclave to the mainland of Bangladesh or India will take place by Nov 30, 2015 through the entry/exit points of Haldibari, Burimari and Banglabandha along the Bangladesh

India border.

But the residents have to inform the district administrations before the Appointed Day about the records and specifications of immovable properties.

Both the governments will ensure the "safe custody and integrity" of land records and other immovable properties of enclave residents till the date of transfer.

The district administrations of the two governments will put these records in the public domain prior to their moving to avoid "misuse or usurpation" of such property and to enable sale by the owner.

The existing mechanism of India-Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) will finalise all further details.

The same mechanism will be used to address any issue that may arise after the transfer for the next five years till June 2020.

In regards to Adverse Possessions and Undemarcated Boundary, the ground demarcation of the boundary based on interim strip maps will be completed by June 30 and the transfer of territorial jurisdiction will end by July 31 midnight.

Dhaka and New Delhi simultaneously released the text of exchange of letters on modalities, which signed and exchanged by the foreign secretaries of the two countries in presence of the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India and the chief minister of West Bengal on June 6 in Dhaka.

The LBA was signed in May 16, 1974 and its protocol inked on September 6, 2011. Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad ratified the deal on November 27, 1974 while the Indian parliament approved it on May 9, 2015.

DHAKA VISIT Congress leader slams Modi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's main opposition Congress yesterday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of playing "partisan politics" by not taking with him the chief ministers of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya for his visit to Dhaka.

"The prime minister of India is expected to show more grace.He is not representing himself or BJP but Republic of India", Congress spokesman Anand Sharma told reporters.

Sharma charged the PM with failing to remember the contribution of Indira Gandhi in the liberation of Bangladesh through Vajpayee had hailed her as "Durga" in the matter.

The PM has "not been politically correct, politically honest" in the visit, Sharma said, adding when Manmohan Singh had visited Dhaka in 2011, all chief ministers concerned were with him.

Congress' attack on Modi came close on the heels of Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had hit out at the Centre on the issue. "By excluding chief ministers of North East from Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh is contrary to the spirit of cooperative federalism," Gogoi said.

Anwar, Rizvi

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Alfaz and Shah Alam, former Dhaka College JCD president Anwar, city BNP leaders Mohammad Hossain and Rafique Akand.

Alfaz, Rafique and Shah Alam gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

Of the seven, Sohel, Anwar and Sattar were shown fugitives while four others were earlier arrested and are now in jail.

The IO also appealed to the court for issuing arrest warrants against the fugitives.

On January 17, police constable Shamim Mia, 28, suffered injuries in his head while trying to escape a petrol bomb attack on a police bus near the Matsya Bhaban intersection in the city. The attack left at least 13 cops injured.

After battling for life for 19 days, Shamim succumbed to his injuries at the Square Hospitals on February 5.

Following the incident, police filed a case with Ramna Police Station against BNP leaders Anwar, Rizvi, Amanullah Aman and 23 others for their alleged involvement in carrying out the attack.

The IO prayed to the court to drop the names of the BNP leaders and activists as he did not find their involvement in the arson attack.

The court on June 22 will decide whether to accept the charges.

Visit 'productive'

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"enormous achievement" that has been sealed in Dhaka. It adds: "Of course, that India has had a determined partner in the Sheikh Hasina regime has made it possible.

"The Bangladesh PM's unreserved cooperation on terrorism and a readiness to think out of the box have been key to constructing a genuine partnership between Delhi and Dhaka. But the larger significance of Modi's visit is in the demonstration of the potential for transforming the region through a more purposeful and problem-solving neighbourhood policy," the daily commented.

It said the Dhaka-Guwahati bus link, extension of the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service to Agartala and the decision to set up new Indian and Bangladesh consulates in Khulna, Sylhet and Guwahati are steps that address "the unfinished agenda of the territorial partition of Bengal in 1947" and "will help the process of economic and cultural reintegration".

The editorial noted that Bangladesh deciding to set up exclusive economic zones for Indian investments is first offered by Bangladesh. It also said by allowing access to Chittagong and Mongla ports to India in return for allowing Bangladeshi goods road access to Nepal and Bhutan have implications "extending far beyond greater convenience for Indian cargo vessels, tying up economic cooperation with a growing bilateral strategic trust."

"The challenge, however, will lie in the hard work needed to implement these initiatives. Slow pace of implementation has undermined the gains of many a hard-won political battle in the past. A couple of major issues are still to be settled. The Teesta waters treaty negotiated in 2011 remains in a limbo," said the newspaper.

It said Modi and Hasina would "also need to find a sensible solution to labour mobility across the border".

"Instead of framing the issue in terms of illegal immigration, the two sides can benefit by an agreed system of citizenship identification and work permit in the border regions," said the daily.

The Times of India in its editorial said "Opening Doors' ratification of the LBA undoes a damaging legacy of Partition" and "India and Bangladesh have bucked the South Asian disease of constantly bickering and quarrelling, which has rendered the region one of the least economically integrated in the world."

It said "while India has been embroiled in a difficult relationship on its western border with Pakistan, there are multiple opportunities in the East waiting to be utilised.
If Bangladesh can become India's land bridge to Southeast Asia, moribund economies of India's eastern and northeastern states can be revitalised."

"At this point, Modi has been successful in persuading the Dhaka establishment that Bangladesh stands to gain from India's rise. As the benefits of India-Bangladesh cooperation start trickling in, perhaps the establishment in Islamabad too can be persuaded to drop its radical suspicion of India and end the game of 'tu tu main main' that bedevils the sub-continent."

Pointing to ratification of the LBA, India getting access to Mongla and Chittagong ports, special economic zones for Indian investors and sharing of intelligence about insurgent activity, Hindustan Times daily in its editorial said "as far as Mr Modi's neighbourhood outreach goes, this visit has been one of the most productive so far".

The Hindu in its editorial "Modi's day in Dhaka" said Modi made West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "understand the geostrategic significance" of Bangladesh and "now in the next phase, India needs to implement the agreements, before another season of elections sets in".

The Mint in an opinion piece said with Modi's visit to Dhaka, "a chapter of bitterness in bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh has come to an end."

It said while concluding LBA was easy, sharing of the water of common rivers "will be much harder".

City on moon!

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priority. Later it would be possible to produce water from hydrogen. Crops could be grown in greenhouses.

Researchers would remain for several months at a time. A permanent shuttle service needs to be established in the case of medical emergencies.

But costs may prove more of an obstacle than the harsh climate of space. The space station cost more than 75 billion pounds and a moon village would cost even more.

But Professor Woerner is confident that countries will come together to build it and the Technical University of Darmstadt in Germany is working on dwellings to be constructed there.

A flight from earth with today's technology would take around two days to cover the 230,000 miles to the moon.

Professor Woerner added: "There is still so much about the moon we don't know. Like where it came from? And there are resources there which could prove valuable, like the gas Helium 3 which we do not have on earth."

'Helium 3 is considered as an energy source for the future which is vital for nuclear fusion.'

AL, BNP happy

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the meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is a signal of the BNP's links with militancy.

"We did make it clear that we are supportive of democracy and we are opposed to fundamentalism and terrorism," said Indian Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar in a briefing after Modi-Khaleda meet on Sunday.

AL presidium member Nuh-Ul-Alam Lenin said, "The Indian statement about fundamentalism proved that India is totally against any militant activities in our country, and New Delhi supports our government's zero tolerance for fundamentalism."

Another AL leader said Modi's visit has opened up a new chapter in the ties between the two countries. "It is Awami League's political victory," AL Organising Secretary Khalid Mahamud Chowdhury said.

BNP'S POSITION

BNP Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman told this newspaper that there would definitely be a positive outcome of the Modi-Khaleda meeting.

Fully displeased with the immediate past Indian Congress-led UPA government's pro-Awami League role, the BNP was elated after Modi took office in the world's largest democracy, they added.

Party sources said the BNP has long been waiting to meet Modi and left no stone unturned to ensure the meeting is held despite the Awami League government's alleged lobby against it.

On Sunday, Khaleda led a five-member BNP delegation at the 45-minute meeting with the Indian PM at Hotel Sonargaon. She also had a 15-minute one-to-one meeting with Modi.

"We are happy that the Indian prime minister gave us 45 minutes from his hectic schedule on the last day of his visit, and we discussed wide range of issues, including the country's politics," said a BNP standing committee member, who attended the meeting.

A BNP leader added that the party chief looked "delighted" when she talked with her party colleagues at her Gulshan political office Sunday night about her talks with Modi. "We did not see her so cheerful in the recent days."

Another BNP leader said he believes the party has been able to remove Delhi's distrust of BNP because of its ally with the Jamaat-e-Islami, which India considers a radical and fundamentalist religious outfit.

During the meeting with Modi, the party delegation made it that they believe in democracy and do not support religious fundamentalism and militancy, he added.

Verdict today

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been able to prove all six charges framed against Hasan.

The state-appointed defence counsel sought acquittal of his client saying the prosecution "utterly failed" to prove the charges.

If convicted, the 68-year-old accused might face the death penalty.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice M Enayetullah Rahim on April 20 kept the case waiting for verdict on completion of arguments by both the prosecution and the defence.

Abul Kalam, conducting prosecutor of the case, yesterday told The Daily Star they did not know the whereabouts of the accused as he had fled soon after the investigation began.

According to the prosecution, Hasan set up a camp of anti-liberation elements at Tarail in April, 1971 and got involved in genocide and crimes against humanity. He was locally known as "Razakar Daroga" for his "atrocious acts", they added.

Hasan of Machihata village in Brahmanbaria had already been living in Tarail with his family for many years before the war. Then 24, he was there during the nine-month-long war, according to the prosecution.

His father Syed Musleh Uddin was the vice-president of the East Pakistan unit of Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) and chairman of the Peace Committee in Kishoreganj subdivision in 1971.

Both the PDP and the Peace Committee opposed the country's independence.

Though he was not active in politics after independence, Hasan was once involved with Nezam-e-Islami, another anti-liberation organisation, according to the prosecution.

The tribunal on April 3 last year issued an arrest warrant against Hasan, but police submitted a report to the court declaring him a fugitive. The tribunal put the accused on trial in absentia.

On November 11 last year, the court indicted Hasan on six charges. The prosecution produced 26 witnesses, including the investigating officer of the case, before the court. The defence, however, did not produce anyone.

CHARGES
Torching and looting of seven houses of Hasan Ahmed and Sadot Ali of Sachail Purbapara village on April 27; killing of one Tofazzal, abduction of two other people and burning of two houses at Konabhawal village on August 23; act of genocide in Palpara of Shemulhati village on September 9 that left 12 people killed; act of genocide at Bargaon village on September 27 that left eight people killed and abduction of 10 others; abduction and murder of Kamini Kumar Ghosh and Jibon Chakravarty and looting of Ghosh's house at Araiura village on October 8; and killing of Rashid Ali Bepari and torching of 100 houses at Sachail village on December 11.

Militants planned

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He further said they seized some documents that provide support for the jihadi group from the arrestees' possession.

THE ARRESTEES

A joint team of Detective Branch of police, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit and Special Branch of police conducted separate raids at Banashree and Shutrapur and arrested the nine.

Acting on a tip-off, the team arrested Kazi Iftekhar Khaled alias Khaled alias Ifi, 28, Fahad bin Nurullah Kashemi alias Fahad alias Kayes, 20, Mohammad Rahat, 21, Din Islam, 25, Ariful Karim Chowdhury alias Adnan, 33, and Nurul Islam, 29, from a garage at Banashree around 3:05pm, said Krishna Pada.

They also recovered around five kilograms of explosives, four machetes, 14 different types of bombs, several jihadi books and a flag of the jihadi group from the first floor of the building.

It was Ifi's flat that the group had been using for bomb-making, said ADC Sanwar, adding that Rahat, Fahad and Ifi are experts in making bombs.

Later around 7:30 that evening, the same team detained Mawlana Nurullah Kashemi, 58, Delwar Hossain, 55, and Yasin Arafat, 28, from Delwar's house on Lalmoan Das Lane at Shutrapur.

Kashemi is a spiritual leader while Delwar is a local businessman.

Three cases were filed with Khilgaon police and another with Shutrapur police against the arrestees.

'ISIS MEMBER' ARRESTED

Detectives arrested Fida Muntasir Al Shaker, a suspected ISIS member, in the capital's Banani DOHS area on Sunday night.

With Shaker, police and detectives arrested at least 16 suspected IS operatives in Bangladesh.

A team of DB (south) also seized a CPU, three laptops, three mobile phones, two hard disks, one passport, 21 different types of books, three leaflets and a notebook from his possession and found screenshots of Facebook friend list and cover pages of

different ISIS-related e-books in his e-mail.

During primary quizzing, Muntasir said he recruited activists through internet and later trained them at his home.

He and nine others were paraded before the media during the press briefing.

On May 30, detectives arrested Abdullah Al Galib, a suspected "assistant coordinator" of the terror outfit in Bangladesh.

Son of an ex-army official, the 27-year-old detainee also launched a new militant organisation called "Jund At-Tawheed Wal Khilafah", detectives said.

Meanwhile, two Dhaka courts yesterday placed six detainees on a seven-day remand each and three on a six-day remand each, court sources said.

Modi comment

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despite being a woman, has declared zero tolerance for terrorism," Modi said in a speech on Sunday at the Dhaka University.

It is not uncommon for Indian politicians -- and Modi's colleagues in his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party -- to make sexist and misogynist remarks. But since he was elected to the nation's highest post a year ago, Modi has carefully constructed a pro-woman image.

During the Independence Day speech last year, he spoke about rising sexual assaults on women and blamed Indian parents for not raising their sons well. He has promoted programs against female feticide and discrimination against female children in Indian families.

But Sunday's gaffe created a stir. Overnight, the hashtag gained ground.

"Even though the remark was meant to be a gesture of praise, social-media users interpreted it as an insult to women around the world," wrote news portal Scroll.in.

"Twitter started buzzing with tweets attached with pictures of women achievers of India; scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation, foreign ministers, sportswomen and more."

VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the Post of Communications Officer under Service Contract modality with Upazila Governance project (UZGP).

The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs/>. Applications should be received no later than 23 June 2015.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.