

Teesta talks in progress quietly

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at its conference room in the capital. The Indian high commissioner to Dhaka confidently said it [Teesta deal] would happen because it is something both sides want to settle quickly.

He mentioned that resolving the decades-old land boundary problems and delimitation of maritime dispute in the Bay of Bengal have boosted confidence between the two countries. This is greatly contributing to greater cooperation in the areas of security, development, energy and connectivity, he added.

Describing water as a big and broad area, he said once both the countries get some confidence boost with the Teesta deal, other areas related to water management would possibly become easier to deal with.

"I think this is going to be the next focus and we seem to be heading towards that direction."

Terming the recent advancement between the two countries a milestone, Saran said India-Bangladesh relations have gone "beyond continuity" following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh on June 6-7, which has offered "a rich menu of things to do".

He described the current bilateral relations as "an active, dynamic and wide ranging" that is marked by "goodwill and a problem solving approach".

The high commissioner has given a long list of engagements between the two next-door neighbours during his two-hour interactions when he tried to prove how the relations went beyond continuity.

He pointed at the conclusion of the four-nation motor vehicle agreement between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) and sub-regional cooperation, and informed that the just concluded meeting of BBIN in Dhaka has decided to hold the trial-run of passenger transport on October 9 and a car rally in November.

In response to a query on policy change obstructing jute and jute goods export to India, the high commissioner said he has already conveyed Bangladesh's concern to

New Delhi in this regard.

Talking about several rounds of telephone conversation at the summit level in the recent past, Saran said the culture of telephone call [between the prime ministers] is a very useful instrument.

"We can have another summit meeting between the two prime ministers and there is an invitation for the Bangladesh premier. We believe that visit can take place," he said.

In reply to a question about Felani killing case and acquittal of the accused, the Indian envoy said it was the most "unfortunate" incident in relationship between the two countries.

He said both the neighbours need to devise ways and means to ensure better coordination and understanding among their border forces. "Border killing has gone down as the trend indicates. We want to bring it down to zero," he added.

Chairman of BISS Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad chaired the session, while Director General Maj Gen AKM Abdur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Bring back Harris

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was not included in the charge sheet, who she said was also responsible for Kibria killing.

than a decade after the killing. As per the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act, the court has to complete the trial within 135 working days.

A Speedy Trial Tribunal of Sylhet on Sunday framed charges against 32 people in Kibria murder case.

Of the 32, Harris Chowdhury, political adviser to the then prime minister Khaleda Zia, is the number one accused. He and nine others are absconding, 14 are behind bars and eight on bail.

Kibria, then an opposition lawmaker, and four others, including his nephew Shah Manzur Huda and local AL leader Abdur Rahim, were killed in a grenade attack on a rally in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

mayor Ariful Haq Chowdhury, who is now in jail.

On the court's framing of charges and start of the trial process, Asma Kibria said the countrymen expect a just trial of the murder case.

CORRECTION:
In our yesterday's report, we inadvertently misquoted Reza Kibria, son of the slain ex-finance minister. He was quoted to have said, "What is important is that the real mastermind behind the assassination has been identified..."

The incident has been probed three times and the investigators have pressed charges thrice against 32 people.

The case proceedings were delayed further, as the court deferred the charge framing nine times due to illness of one of the accused, suspended Sylhet city

He actually said: "What is important is that the real masterminds behind the assassination are identified..."

We regret the mistake.

The jobs robots

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teachers — are safe from the coming robot apocalypse. But those that require repetitive skills, the manipulation of data or manual entering of information could see their jobs taken away.

preneurship or scientific discovery. People in those fields might actually benefit from the robots — entrepreneurs can use technology to "leverage your invention", the researchers point out.

The researchers calculated all of the various advantages that humans have over machines. Jobs that reward those traits were more likely to be safe from being stolen by robots.

Social interactions are also still highly-desired, and something robots aren't especially good at. Humans will still be needed as managers and carers, for instance — at least for the time being, though scientists have been creating robots designed to be friends to lonely people for years.

Putting all of those characteristics together let the researchers score the likelihood of robots taking certain jobs, out of 1. The BBC has created a special tool for finding out exactly how likely a robot is to have your job — online at its Intelligent Machines website.

Robots have already taken on a good deal of jobs, the researchers point out. "Computer" used to be a word that referred to people who did data entry, for instance, and now it is the word for the little robots that sit on everyone's desk.

What prompted govt

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percent VAT.

cabinet meeting. Later, she conveyed her decision to withdraw VAT to National Board of Revenue Chief Nojibur Rahman, said government sources.

On Sunday evening, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina discussed the issue with Public Administration Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam at the Gono Bhaban, and decided to withdraw VAT on private universities, said the sources.

Emerging from the meeting, the PM told some of her cabinet colleagues that she was unhappy with the finance minister and NBR officials for creating confusion over the VAT issue, said the sources.

Later, several leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League met the PM at the Gono Bhaban and requested her to withdraw VAT. She assured them of doing so, said BCL leaders.

A minister, who was present there, said the PM told them that misunderstanding was created over some issues and the government had to clarify those.

BCL President Saifur Rahman Sohag told The Daily Star yesterday, "We thank both the government and Sheikh Hasina for meeting our request to withdraw VAT."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several AL leaders blamed the finance minister for the crisis over the VAT issue.

Yesterday, Hasina talked to Finance Minister AMA Muhith about the VAT issue after a weekly

dictory statements.

"He [Muhith] is making things complicated. It is not expected from a senior leader like him," said a senior AL leader, seeking anonymity.

The party leader also blamed Muhith for the ongoing movement of public university teachers.

On Sunday, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif said the government would get around Tk 60 crore from VAT on private universities. It was unnecessary to invite troubles, which might cost the government Tk 6,000 crore, for getting this sum.

"I don't see any rationale for imposing this VAT," he said at a programme in Natore.

Hanif also alleged that some vested quarters were instigating student protests.

Minister Syed Mohsin Ali

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Singapore Mahub Uz Zaman told The Daily Star.

body will be taken to his village home in Moulvibazar," said Mayedul Islam, public relations officer at the social welfare ministry.

The minister was admitted to capital's Birdem hospital with pneumonia on September 3 and had been on life support since then. As his condition deteriorated, he was flown to Singapore by an air ambulance on September 5.

Mohsin, a lawmaker from Habiganj-3 constituency, started his political career with Chhatra League.

His body will be brought home tonight.

He served as president of Moulvibazar Awami League unit between 1998 and 2005.

A nazam-e-janaza will be held on Wednesday morning [tomorrow] at South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban from where the

He was a member of Sector Commanders' Forum and also former chairman of Moulvibazar Poursava.

Mohsin became a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry after being elected a lawmaker in the ninth parliamentary election.

At its weekly meeting yesterday,

the cabinet observed a minute of silence in his honour and adopted a condolence motion.

President Abdul Hamid, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman, other ministers and political leaders expressed profound shock at his death.

"The nation has lost a dedicated politician and valiant freedom fighter... His sad demise is really an irreparable loss to the country's political arena," the president said in his condolence message.

Taliban free 355

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"In this operation, 400 of our innocent countrymen were freed... and were taken to mujahideen-controlled areas," it added.

ern province of Kandahar.

The Taliban are known to exaggerate and distort their public statements.

In the last major Afghan jailbreak in 2011 nearly 500 Taliban inmates escaped from a prison in the south-

The Taliban at the time said they sprang the inmates through a one-kilometre tunnel that took five months to dig. The government described that incident as a security "disaster".

city's main prison.

And in 2008 about 1,000 prisoners including hundreds of Taliban rebels escaped when suicide bombers blew open the gates of Kandahar

Taliban insurgents are stepping up their summer offensive despite a simmering leadership succession dispute after the confirmation of the death of long time chief Mullah Omar.

Mullah Akhtar Mansour, a trusted deputy of Omar, was named as the insurgents' new chief in late July but the power transition has been acrimonious.

Muslim extremists abduct 11 workers in southern Philippines

AFP, Zamboanga

Muslim extremists with a history of beheading their captives abducted 11 workers on a government road project in the strife-torn southern Philippines yesterday, the military said.

The workers were escorting a water truck to the project on the island of Basilan when members of the Abu Sayyaf group waylaid them and took them into the surrounding jungle, a statement from the island's military unit said.

Police and troops were sent to the area but could not trace the abductors.

Sources in the Basilan government said talks were being held to free the captives, all of whom are local Muslims.

The heavily forested island of Basilan is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, a loose band of several hundred men set up in the 1990s with seed money from the Al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden.

Eid-ul-Azha

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of the country, said Shamim Mohammad Afzal, director general of the Islamic Foundation.

He was addressing a press briefing at the foundation's meeting room at Baitul Mukarram in the evening.

TCB to start

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in Dhaka city markets from a month ago.

The onion price has been rising for nearly a month as adverse weather conditions affected the production in India, a major source of the vegetable item for Bangladesh.

It soared to Tk 90 each kilogram by the end of last month when India increased the export price by \$275 per tonne to boost supply in the local market and rein in the soaring prices.

Amid the spiral of onion prices here, TCB floated tenders on August 24 to buy 550 tonnes of imported onions for selling in the domestic market.

So far, it has signed contracts for 200 tonnes at Tk 62 per Kg, said an official.

Bangladesh consumes nearly 21 lakh tonnes of onion a year, of which 5-8 lakh tonnes are imported, mainly from India, according to data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and the National Board of Revenue.

Apart from onion, TCB will sell sugar at Tk 37 per kg and soybean oil at Tk 89 per litre. Each customer will be allowed to buy 4 kg sugar, 2 kg onions and 10 litres of soybean oil, according to the press release.

As many as 173 trucks will be stationed at 24 points in the capital, 10 in Chittagong, five each in the divisional headquarters and two each in the district headquarters to sell the items, the release added.

Turnbull topples

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deputy leader of the Liberal Party by 70 votes to 30.

In the current parliament, who-ever leads the Liberal Party becomes prime minister as head of the conservative coalition in which it is the senior partner.

It is not the first time in recent years that an Australian prime minister has been removed by a party room coup, with Labor premiers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard both suffering the same fate in 2010 and 2013 respectively.

Moves against the unpopular Abbott had been in the works for months.

He survived a leadership challenge in February after poor polling, policy backflips and an unpopular budget generated a backbench revolt, fuelled by questions about the prime minister's judgement.

No challenger emerged then, after a vote on whether there should be a leadership contest was defeated 61 to 39.

But in the months since, Abbott has failed to turn around the polls, bolster the economy or stop damaging leaks from within his party.

Turnbull, a former barrister and entrepreneur who represents an upmarket Sydney electorate, argued earlier yesterday that the government's message was not getting through and that a new, more open, approach was needed.

The popular communications minister, long considered one of the most credible alternatives to Abbott, quit the cabinet in a shock move that triggered the party ballot.

Mymensingh to become division

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not included in the new division.

Briefing reporters after the meeting at the secretariat, Cabinet Secretary M. Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the new division will begin its journey with the launch of the offices of the divisional commissioner and the range DIG of police.

The division will have an area of 10,584 square kilometres, with a population of about 1,13,70,000.

The government is also going to set up Faridpur and Comilla divisions, added Musharraf.

The meeting approved proposals to introduce Bhandaria Pourasabha in Pirojpur and expand the boundary of Homna Pourasabha in Comilla.

It also gave the go-ahead to dissect Muradnagar upazila of Comilla to establish a new police station there. The new police station, with an area of 189 square kilometres and a population of 2,40,775 in 10 unions, will be known as Bangura Bazar Police Station.

Speaking at a meeting of the Awami League

Central Working Committee on Friday, Hasina, also the AL chief, said her government was going to elevate Faridpur and Comilla to divisions, said meetings sources.

JOY IN MYMENSINGH
Hundreds of jubilant people from different socio-cultural and political organisations brought out processions in Mymensingh town yesterday afternoon to hail the government's decision to upgrade the district to a division.

People distributed sweets in different areas of the town. Many were seen exchanging flowers with friends, relatives and locals.

Talking to newsmen at Mymensingh Press Club in the evening, Religious Affairs Minister Motiur Rahman said, "I would like to specially thank Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking the initiative to make our long-cherished dream come true."

He also expressed gratitude to Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad for her support in declaring Mymensingh as a division.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh contributed to this report.

Study disproves govt's reasoning

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Findings of the MJF study "Marriageable Age and Child Marriage: Present Status", conducted between September 2014 and August 2015 in 24 districts, was presented at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The research surveyed 1,237 households with girls, aged under 18, married off in the last one year.

It has found that the average age of child marriage is 15.53 years, and 65 percent are married off under the age of 16 and 2.26 percent under 12.

"We even found evidence that girl children are married before they are 10," said Banasree Mitra Neogi, programme coordinator of MJF, while presenting the findings.

Recently, the government took an initiative to enact a new law with a provision that would allow marriage at 16 under special circumstances.

"This sub-clause would only give parents more reason to marry off their daughters as early as 14," said Mitra, referring to the law.

Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the draft of the upcoming law did not give details of the special circumstances that permit lowering girls' marriageable age. But, she added, the state minister for women and children affairs referred to parents' concern about premarital relationships of girls as the reason for keeping that clause.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said such a move will go against other laws of the country, including the Children's Act 2013, which defines a child as a person under 18.

She said the government's stance on

lowering the marriageable age goes against its education and health policies.

"It will be a disaster for our decade-long movement to end violence against women because child marriage is one of the main reasons behind it," said Anam, also a noted women's rights activist.

Prof Shahnaz Huda of Dhaka University's law department explained that no marriage is illegal unless it is done through fraud, coercion, trafficking or rape.

"The law only stipulates that early marriage is punishable," said Prof Huda, noting the contradiction of adding a clause to decriminalise marriage at 16 while keeping the legal age of marriage at 18.

The MJF study through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews has found that most parents think the suitable age for girls' marriage ranges from 14 to 15 years.

According to the study, 25.46 percent of the respondents mentioned that social insecurity such as sexual harassment causes early marriage; 22.49 percent said suitable grooms were available whereas 18.99 percent cited poverty as the cause.

The study also reveals that men perceive girls under 16 as virgin and hence show higher interest in marrying them while parents feel that less dowry will be required to marry off their under-age daughters.

The government is going to present a report on the condition of the country's children at the Convention of the Rights of Child, which began yesterday at Geneva, Switzerland. The report will include the early marriage issue.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Pirojpur
www.lged.gov.bd
Memo No: LGED/XEN/Peroj/2015/1979 Dated: 10.09.2015

Corrigendum Notice

This is for information to all concerned that due to some unavoidable circumstance the following amendment are made in the IFT (works) No-02/2015-2016 invited vide memo No. LGED/XEN/Peroj/2015/1877, date: 26.08.2015 are as follows:

Sl No.	Particulars	Existing	Amendment	Remarks
01	Tender last selling date	15-09-2015	05-10-2015	
02	Tender last closing date	16-09-2015	06-10-2015	
03	Tender last opening date	16-09-2015	06-10-2015	

- The other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
- The Corrigendum Notice will be available in e-mail: www.lged.gov.bd & www.cptu.gov.bd

Md. Rafiqul Hasan
Executive Engineer
LGED, Pirojpur
Ph: 0461-62463

GD-2985

TENDER NOTICE

CORE BANKING SYSTEM (CBS) REVIEW FOR BANK ASIA

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Bank Asia Limited for 1. Core Banking System (CBS) review and 2. Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing. Terms and conditions of the tender is given below:

- The bidder must have registered office in Bangladesh having valid Trade License /TIN/ VAT.
- The bidder shall be the government organization /PSU /PSE /partnership firm/LLP or limited company having minimum 5 (five) years of existence in related business. As core business, the company should have overall previous experience in completion of related works like Review/Evaluation of Core Banking System, Information Systems Audit, Data Security related consultation and providing support service to different Banks in Bangladesh in multi-user environment. Details as per Bid Documents including copies of Trade Licenses issued by statutory authority, TIN Certificate for the same period (up to Year 2013-14) and VAT Registration Certificates must be submitted with the Bid.
- The bidder has to submit detailed note on the methodology, approach, strategy, road map, total manpower involvement in the project, total man-days requirement for per cycle etc. specific to project. The bank reserves the right to call the bidder to present their detailed plan for execution of the project, to the Bank.
- Two copies of technical proposal in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes, must be dropped in the Tender Box kept at the office of the undersigned on October 22, 2015 between 10:00 am to 3:30 pm and by clearly marked as "Technical Proposal" on the top of the envelope. Tenders will be opened at 03:30 pm on the same date in presence of the bidders or their representatives, who may remain present.
- Financial offer for both the technical scope must be submitted in single separate sealed envelope marked as "Financial Offer". The bidder has to follow the template given as part of the Bid Documents.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on October 12, 2015 (11 am) at ICT Department, Bank Asia Limited, Corporate Office, Rangs Tower (8th floor), 68 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Questions must be submitted by 2.00 pm of October 11, 2015.
- Earnest money (refundable) equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted value of works or BDT 1.00 (One) Lakh whichever is lower in the form of pay order/bank draft/Bank Guarantee issued in Bangladesh (minimum validity 180 days) of any scheduled bank in favor of Bank Asia Limited shall be submitted along with the tender.
- Bank Asia reserves the right to accept, modify or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. The bank shall not be bound or under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.
- Detailed Bid Document will be sent by email to the interested bidders who register their interest via email sent to "ba.tender@bankasia-bd.com" by 3.00 PM October 10, 2015.

First Vice President
Logistic Support & Services Division(LSSD)
Bank Asia Limited
Corporate Office, Rangs Tower (6th floor),
68, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
Tel: +880-2-7110062 (Ext. 690)

Bank Asia