

# Defence in focus

FROM PAGE 1  
relates to Teesta issue.

Jaishankar made it clear that he didn't have anything to believe "something dramatic" would happen in the next two days. "It's my honest assessment."

He, however, said the Indian central government's view remained positive on the Teesta, but it needed to take all on board.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, invited to join the two PMs at a banquet hosted by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee in Hasina's honour, told a meeting in Bankura on Wednesday that there was not enough water in the Teesta river.

"What can I do if there is no water? ... Teesta doesn't have water," the Indian media quoted Mamata as saying.

During the 2011 Dhaka visit, the then Indian premier Manmohan Singh was all set to sign a treaty on sharing of waters of the Teesta, a common river of the two countries. But at the last minute, Mamata pulled out of the visit, stating that the terms on water-sharing were damaging for her state.

Briefing the Indian media in Delhi on Hasina's visit, Sripriya Ranganathan, joint secretary at the Indian external affairs ministry, said, "We do intend to sign two MoUs [memorandums of understanding] on defence: one a framework for cooperation for a few years for supply and research and development, and the second for Bangladesh to source defence equipment from India under which a line of credit will be earmarked."

Diplomatic sources said Delhi would give Dhaka a credit of around \$500 million for defence-related purchase.

India is also set to extend "another substantial concessional loan" to Bangladesh. But the amount has not been specified.

The sources, however, pegged the figure at \$5 billion. This will be the third Line of Credit (LoC) by India to Bangladesh. The first two LoCs -- one amounting to \$1 billion and the other \$2 billion -- were announced in 2011 and 2015.

The fresh credit would be for infrastructure projects on railways, roads and waterways, among others, as Delhi moves to counter China's influence in neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Last year, Bangladesh bought two submarines from China.

Asked about Mamata's joining the banquet and prospect for Teesta deal, Ranganathan said, "I cannot pre-judge what the leaders will discuss nor will I be privy to that."

She, however, said Modi conveyed to Hasina in the past that the federal government of India needs the support of state governments to take certain decisions on issues like water-sharing and to implement them.

"So, it is difficult to predict anything on this at this point of time."

Mamata's agreeing to join the luncheon to be hosted by Modi for Hasina and the dinner by Pranab on April 9 triggered guarded optimism in diplomatic circles about the Teesta deal.

There had been doubts about

Mamata attending the events after she, in a recent interview to a TV channel, accused the Indian government of keeping her in the dark about a reported move to ink the Teesta deal.

Mamata has also been invited to be present when Modi and Hasina flag off through video conferencing a passenger train and bus service connecting Kolkata and Khulna and a cargo train service between Birol in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Bangladesh for ferrying diesel to northern Bangladesh.

Dhaka expects Delhi to travel the extra mile to ensure the Teesta deal or at least get a concrete assurance from it during Hasina's visit. The PM is already under attack from the BNP which is accusing her of "selling the country's interests to India."

Mamata's resistance to Teesta treaty, which began in September 2011 when she opted out of Manmohan's Dhaka tour at the eleventh hour, stems from concerns over water availability in the Teesta in the northern part of West Bengal.

Talking to The Daily Star, several leaders of Trinamool Congress party said fresh panchayat polls in the state are just a few months away and Mamata wouldn't risk a decision on the Teesta.

During bilateral talks between Hasina and Modi, counter-terrorism and radicalisation of youth are also expected to dominate the agenda.

"All aspects of our security cooperation with Bangladesh are excellent," Ranganathan said, adding, "We have an exhaustive menu on security."

She said security cooperation got a boost a few years ago and was scaled up after the July 1 terror attack in Dhaka's Gulshan last year.

An MoU on cooperation on cyber security and an agreement on civil nuclear cooperation would be signed between the two countries, she added.

The two sides are likely to sign more than 20 agreements and MoUs in a wide range of areas, including information and communication technology, shipping, mass media, science and technology, trade and investment, and energy as well as management of the highly-porous border between the two countries.

Ranganathan described Hasina as a "very very special guest", and said "we are giving finishing touches to a joint statement" to be issued after the talks between the two PMs, which will provide a future roadmap for Bangladesh-India relations.

This is really a special visit that would take the bilateral ties to a higher level, she noted.

According to Ranganathan, the two countries "have made very tangible progress" in almost all areas of cooperation and are working very hard to implement all the decisions taken during Modi's landmark visit to Dhaka in June 2015.

She said Indo-Bangla trade stands at \$6.5 billion of which India's exports account for \$5.5 billion. Two-way imports and exports are rising.

Estimating cumulative Indian investment in Bangladesh at \$3 billion, Ranganathan said, "There is a great deal of enthusiasm for more such investments from India in Bangladesh."

Asked about Dhaka's complaints about non-tariff barriers in India to goods from Bangladesh, she said India needs "more clarity on specific instances". She said that setting up of more border haats would help narrow the trade deficit.

**HECTIC SCHEDULE**  
On her arrival at the Palam Air Force Station in Delhi this afternoon, Hasina would be received by Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Babul Supriyo and driven straight to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, official residence of the Indian president, on the Raisina Hills where she would stay during her visit.

This is the first time that a Bangladesh PM is being given the honour of staying at the sprawling British-built structure that once housed the viceroy of colonial India.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will be the first Indian leader to call on Hasina this afternoon at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and in the evening, Hasina will be given a dinner-reception at the Bangladesh High Commission premises.

Hasina gets into a packed schedule of engagements tomorrow, starting with a ceremonial reception and guard of honour by the three wings of India's defence services at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan where both Pranab and Modi will be present.

The Bangladesh PM will then place floral wreaths at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, India's Father of the Nation, at the Raj Ghat.

Considerable significance is being attached to a 30-minute one-on-one meeting between Modi and Hasina before the delegation-level talks they would lead at the Hyderabad House tomorrow. Later, the two sides will sign a series of agreements and MoUs.

Soon after the talks and signing of MoUs, Modi and Hasina will jointly release the Hindi translation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's "The Unfinished Memoirs."

Modi will host a luncheon for Hasina at the Hyderabad House where Mamata is expected to be present.

In a throwback to blood-bonding between Bangladesh and India during the 1971 Liberation War, Hasina will honour the families of 1,661 Indian soldiers killed in the war.

The function will be held at a convention hall named after India's only Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw who crafted India's military strategy during the 1971 war. The Indian PM will be present there.

Seven families of the Indian soldiers -- four from the Indian army, and one each from the air force, the navy and the BSF -- will be honoured by Hasina who will also hand over a cheque of Rupees 5 lakh to each of these families.

On April 9, Hasina will fly to Ajmer to perform "jiyarat" at the shrine of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti. She will then return to Delhi to attend a dinner to be hosted by Pranab, who steps down in July on completion of his five-year term.

Hasina wraps up her visit with an address to the honchos of Indian industry and trade at the Taj Palace hotel on April 10 morning.

# India offers to help embrace clean energy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday offered Bangladesh support in renewable energy sector and energy efficiency initiatives for transitioning to a clean energy regime.

The offer was made by Indian Foreign Minister Piyush Goyal during an interaction with a delegation of visiting Bangladeshi media persons.

Talking about the prospects of engagements between the two countries, Goyal expressed willingness in supporting Bangladesh in renewable energy sector and energy efficiency initiatives, saying India achieved huge success in those.

The scale at which the renewable energy sector has expanded in India would surely help Bangladesh learn from India's experiences and help its eastern neighbour in transitioning towards clean energy in the future, the minister added.

Goyal said India and Bangladesh have expanded the scope of engagement to an "unprecedented scale" which has built a great level of mutual trust between the two countries.

The minister said both the countries have a lot to learn from each other and cooperate on a number of issues of regional and global importance.

Goyal commended Bangladesh on its achievements like the Grameen Bank and revolution in the textile sector, for which he said India looks up to Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh are more than just neighbours, he added.

The Indian power minister expressed confidence of getting greater cooperation from Bangladesh in areas like developing intra-regional power and transport corridors.

# WAR CRIMES 1971

# Probe agency gets documents on Moosa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists Sagar Lohani and Probrir Sikdar yesterday handed over some documents, which they deem to be evidence of war-time offences committed by controversial businessman Moosa bin Shamsher, to the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal.

"We have requested them [investigators] to start a formal investigation against Moosa and take steps to arrest him so that he cannot obstruct the investigation," Sagar Lohani said.

The 28-page document comprising mainly media reports was handed to Sanaul Huq, co-coordinator of the probe agency.

They also talked to the agency's Coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan.

They had collected media reports of the last 15 to 16 years, including Janakantha's report titled "Sei Rajakar" written by Probrir Sikdar.

"They [investigators] received our documents and assured us that they will complete the ongoing preliminary investigation as soon as possible," Sagar said.

Contacted, Hannan Khan confirmed that the agency received the documents.

"We will follow the same procedure in this case that we have been following in other cases," he said.

Earlier on March 29, Sanaul Huq said the agency had started looking into controversial businessman Moosa's alleged involvement in crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War and that investigators would register a case against him if they found any evidence.

He, however, declined to give further details but invited journalists to give information about Moosa if they had any.

Sagar said they submitted the documents in response to the request from Sanaul.

In 2001, Bangla daily Janakantha ran a series of reports headlined "Sei Razakar" on alleged war criminals. Several parts of those reports have already been used as prosecution evidence in different war crimes cases.

Janakantha on March 24, 2001 ran a report on Moosa under the headline "Faridpurer 'Nula Moosai' Elkhon Dhakar Rahoshye Chera Dhanyadhya Bebosaye Prince Moosa bin Shamsher" (Nula Moosa of Faridpur now Dhaka's mysterious rich businessman Prince Moosa bin Shamsher).

According to the report, Moosa, a man from Faridpur, was a close aide of Pakistani Maj Akram Koreshti and was involved in several crimes including killings during the Liberation War.

Contacted, Mosharrif Hossain, an office executive of Moosa's business company, told The Daily Star yesterday that Moosa would soon give his official reply.

# Father to file murder case

FROM PAGE 18

they with the help of two visiting Maldivian policemen probing Raudha's death were able to unlock her phone yesterday.

He said they got some important information which would help their investigation.

But the police official did not go into details.

Raudha's father Mohamed Athif, a physician by profession, visited Islami Bank Medical College at Nawardapara in Rajshahi city yesterday and met the college principal and members of the medical board that performed his daughter's autopsy.

After the meeting at the room of the college principal, Athif said, "I went to them [college officials] with several questions and their answers could not satisfy me."

He said a member of the medical board claimed that the bruises on her neck, which appeared to be strangulation marks to the family members, were her birthmarks.

"This is a very ridiculous joke! I am her father who doesn't know her birthmarks?" he said and broke down in tears.

"I am going to file a murder case against unnamed persons," he said, adding that they were not familiar with legal procedures of Bangladesh and so they were hiring lawyers from Dhaka and Rajshahi to deal with the case.

Athif said even if the Maldivian police were going to call it a suicide, they should find out why she committed suicide. He said his daughter did not fit the profile of some one who

could commit suicide.

"Claims of Raudha's father are not right," said Prof Mansur Rahman, of Barind Medical College and head of the medical board, who was present when the meeting was going on between Raudha's father and the college officials.

"Him being the father, he has emotions, but we three experienced professionals reported what we saw," he said.

Meanwhile, the college's Vice-Principal Prof MA Mukit Sarkar, who heads a five-member committee formed to probe Raudha's death, said they collected statements from 19 people, including Raudha's friends, interns and dormitory staff, and came to the conclusion that she had committed suicide.

"We are going to submit a report within a day or two," he said.

Laila Akter, an associate professor of the college and in-charge of the dormitory, said Raudha had died hours before her body was found.

She also said she saw that two of her close friends, who took down the hanging body, were screaming and telling her to save her, believing that Raudha was still alive.

The two Maldivian police officials, who are in Rajshahi since April 3, also went to the college yesterday. They talked to the college authorities and visited Raudha's dorm room for the second time.

They declined to talk to the media as they were not authorised to, said Kamruzzaman Masud, academic officer of the college, quoting them.

# Joint move

FROM PAGE 18

avoiding casualties and establishing a good border management.

When the BGB official was asked how many people had been injured or killed in the IED or mine explosions and who were the separatist groups, he told journalists that he could only tell after knowing the details.

Terming drug smuggling on the border a high priority issue, the BGB official said both the countries would exchange information in this regard so that nobody could intrude into anybody's land and both countries would conduct anti-drug smuggling drives in their respective areas.

BGB also handed over to Myanmar a list of 49 yaba factories and spots from where the drugs are smuggled into Bangladesh, he said, adding that the Myanmar authority assured them of giving priority to combating the crime.

The conference began on April 1. A six-member Bangladesh delegation, led by Anisur, took part in the programme while Brig Gen Myo Swe Win, chief of police general staff of MPE, led his six-member team.

Rohingya issue was also briefly

discussed.

Anisur said they expressed concern as a huge number of Rohingyas entered Bangladesh recently.

Myanmar police informed them that the situation was now stable and normal in Maungdaw, a place in Rakhine state where Myanmar army launched a crackdown on Rohingyas, and many of them entered Bangladesh following the crackdown, he said.

The BGB official further said if any emergency situation arose, both sides would take necessary steps after sharing information to stop such illegal trespassing.

Asked whether any discussion was held over taking back Rohingyas, he said it was beyond their jurisdiction.

After the conference, BGB and MPF adopted a nine-point resolution that includes seeking permission for entering each other's territory.

Besides, border security forces of both countries agreed to provide legal assistance to a citizen if he or she is detained for trespassing.

The BGB and MPF consented to hold the next border conference in Naypyidaw of Myanmar in November this year.

# Turkey plans new ops against PKK in northern Iraq

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey is planning in the next weeks to launch a new cross border military incursion to oust the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) from the Sinjar region of northern Iraq, a report said yesterday.

The report in the pro-government Yeni Safak daily was not immediately confirmed by Turkish officials but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has over the last days indicated an operation

in northern Iraq could be in the offing.

Turkey last week announced it had completed its half-year Euphrates Shield operation in northern Syria against jihadists and Kurdish militia, although it is keeping a presence to maintain security in towns now under control of pro-Ankara Syrian rebels.

But Erdogan this week said Euphrates Shield was only a "first stage" and new military operations were being planned, including for Sinjar.

# Ragib jailed for tea estate land grabbing

FROM PAGE 18

estate's legal Shebayet (caretaker), Pankaj Kumar Gupta.

Defence lawyer Abdul Mukit Api told journalists that they would challenge the verdict at the High Court.

Ragib got six years' imprisonment under section 467 of the Penal Code, which is the charge of "forgery of a valuable security, will or authority to make or transfer any valuable security, or to receive any money, etc".

Another six years were under section 468, which is the charge of "forgery for the purpose of cheating".

He got one year under section 420, which deals with "cheating and thereby dishonestly inducing delivery of property, or the making, alteration or destruction of a valuable security".

Another year was handed down under section 471, which is the charge of using a forged document knowingly.

Similarly, the other four got seven years under each of the first two sections and one year under each of the remaining two.

Tarapur Tea Estate has been an endowment property since 1915.

The caretaker had earlier alleged that Ragib started grabbing the estate's land in 1990 after forcing him to leave the country.

After grabbing 422.96 acres, Ragib built a medical college, sold 337 plots and established some other structures on the land.

The grabbing case is one of two filed by SM Abdul Kadir, the then assistant commissioner (Land) of Sylhet Sadar, against Ragib with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station in 2005.

The grabbing case was filed on November 2 while the other, over the forgery of legal documents, was filed on September 25.

Ragib was sent to jail on November 24 last year after Indian police arrested him in Karimganj district of Assam and handed him over to Bangladesh Police.

His son was arrested by Zakiganj immigration police on November 12 while trying to enter Bangladesh.

The relative, Dewan, surrendered to a court on October 10 and has been on bail since December 18.

On February 2 this year, Ragib and his son each got six years' imprisonment, the maximum of four concurrent terms handed down in the forgery case.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, they would serve another three months in jail.

The sentences will be served separately for the two cases with the count beginning from the day the respective verdicts were announced, Additional Public Prosecutor Mahfuzur Rahman told The Daily Star.

# Trump, Xi set to meet first time

FROM PAGE 18

and is capable of unravelling the most carefully-laid plans with a single 140-character tweet.

The stakes, both domestic and international, are high.

Disagreements over approaches to North Korea or bilateral trade could, if mishandled, destabilise North East Asia or tank the global economy.

On the domestic front, Xi is heading into a critical political meeting later this year. He needs to show that he can deal with the US leader as an equal and eliminate the potential for unwelcome surprises in the run-up to the event that could assure his power for years to come.

He "cannot afford to lose face while China aspires to be the new centre of gravity for the world order," China political analyst Willy Lam told AFP.

Meanwhile, Trump -- who is reeling from legislative defeats, low approval ratings and unrelenting scandals --

desperately needs a win.

He may not have much room to manoeuvre, however, with a country he has castigated for "stealing" American jobs and doing "little" to rein in North Korea's nuclear program.

Even though the two leaders "want to project themselves as very forceful, very decisive and also getting the best for the benefit of their own countries, they are also anxious not to get into difficult negotiating positions," according to Lam.

**WIN-WIN**  
Amid such high stakes, Xi plans to offer "win-win" gifts calculated to make it easy for Trump to make concessions while burnishing his hard-charging deal-making public persona.

Top of the list, according to a source briefed on Xi's plans, will be a package of Chinese investments aimed at creating more than 700,000 American jobs -- the number pledged to Trump by China's regional rival Japan, during Prime

Minister Abe's February Mar-a-Lago visit.

There may also be offers to further open China's auto and agricultural markets, insiders say, and even some concessions on Chinese banks' transactions with North Korea, a vital financial lifeline for the country.

**Delhi street**  
FROM PAGE 18  
Mujibur Rahman -- ahead of Sheikh Hasina's visit. This is like a friendly gesture as India shares cordial relations with Bangladesh," a senior NDMC official said.

According to NDMC officials, 12 of the council members, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, agreed to the proposal, while one member of his Aam Aadmi Party from Delhi Cantonment Surinder Singh refused to give consent.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. Bogra,R,D/488 Date: 05.04.2017

## e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Bogra for the procurement of:

Tender ID & Package No.	Package description	Publishing date, closing date
Tender ID No. 95640 Tender No. e-GP-65/EE/BRD/2016-2017, Memo No. 460 dt: 04-04-2017	Renovation & maintenance work at RHD, EE's Residence, SDE-1 Residence, SDE-Sherpur Residence, Office Campus, House No. 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, Khander Stackyard Labour Shade & Mokamtola Labour Shade, under Road Division Bogra, during the year 2016-2017	05 Apr 2017, 23:45:00 17 Apr 2017, 13:00:00
Tender ID No. 95652 Tender No. e-GP-66/EE/BRD/2016-2017, Memo No. 461 dt: 04-04-2017	Repairing of damaged pavement providing by Aggregate Base Type-II & Carpeting with Seal Coat at 1st(P), 2nd(P), 3rd(P), 4th(P), 5th(P), 6th(P), 7th(P) & 8th(P) km of Kadalighi Panchoir-Dhalarhat-Chowmohoni-Adamdighi (Bagdah) (Z-5471) Road, under Road Division Bogra, during the year 2016-2017	05 Apr 2017, 23:45:00 17 Apr 2017, 13:45:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded from as stated above on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursue.

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GD-725