



## \$10b business deals signed

Most related to power sector; PM returns home after 4-day state visit to India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA



With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrapping up her India visit yesterday, government agencies and private companies of the two countries signed 13 more agreements and memoranda of understanding to further deepen bilateral economic partnership.

The deals involving around \$10 billion cover the power, energy, logistics, education and medical sectors.

The documents of the deals were exchanged at a meeting of India-Bangladesh Business Forum at New Delhi's Taj Palace Hotel in presence of Hasina and Dharmendra Pradhan, Indian minister of state for petroleum and natural gas.

The deals include \$1.6 billion debt financing by Exim Bank of India for implementation of the 1,320MW Maitree Power Project in Bangladesh's Rampal.

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (BIFPCL) and Exim Bank signed the agreement.

Meanwhile, there has been a growing outcry over the location of the thermal project as Rampal is near the ecologically-sensitive Sundarbans, a world heritage site.

During Hasina's visit, Dhaka and New Delhi on April 8 signed 22 agreements and MoUs in the areas of defence, energy and nuclear power, among others.

The Bangladesh premier returned home last night with high points in furthering the Indo-Bangla ties.

'KUCHH TO MILA' -- PAGE 2

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A tannery owner at Hazaribagh points out the semi-processed leather at his now idle factory. Production stopped at most of the tanneries after the Department of Environment cut off power, gas and water connections to the polluting factories there on Saturday following a High Court order. Inset, workers demonstrate at Hazaribagh Tannery Mor yesterday protesting the government move.

## HAZARIBAGH TANNERIES Workers face uncertainty

To remain jobless until factory opening in Savar

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

About 45,000 workers of Hazaribagh tanneries are now worried about how they would survive with no jobs as production at the factories stopped on Saturday.

The Department of Environment (DoE), following a High Court order, disconnected utility services to the factories there that day to force the tanners to move to the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

The factory owners did not tell the workers whether they would be employed in the new factories in Savar, as the relocation of the units could take a few months, some of the owners said.

"My employer told us that it may take five months to start production at the new factories in Savar," said Riyad Hossain, a paid help at a leather goods factory in Hazaribagh.

Riyad, who used to work in gloves production, also said his employer gave them two options: go to Savar when production starts or leave with a few months' wages.

Fazal Mia, an operator of a factory for 10 years, echoed the same. His employer too gave him two options. "I will go to Savar as I am an experienced worker. I cannot change my profession now."

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## I married Shakib Khan in 2008

Reveals Apu Biswas; Shakib to accept son, not Apu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Actress Apu Biswas, who had disappeared for quite some time, has emerged and revealed before the media that she married co-actor Shakib Khan and they have a son.

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## ANTI-CHILD MARRIAGE LAW HC questions spl provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has questioned the legality of a provision that allows marriage of underage girls and boys under "special circumstances".

The court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why the special provision of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, should not be declared discriminatory and contrary to the constitution and against the international treaties concerned.

The secretaries of law as well as women and children affairs ministries have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and JBM Hassan came up with the rule following a writ petition jointly filed by rights organisations Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association and Nari Pokkho.

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## DEATH OF RAUDHA Father sues classmate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



Raudha's father Mohamed Athif filed a murder case against one of the classmates of her daughter with a Rajshahi court yesterday, 13 days after the Maldivian student and model was found dead in a medical college dormitory.

The accused is also a foreign student. Metropolitan Magistrate Saiful Islam accepted the case after it was filed with Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court, Athif's lawyer Kamrul Manir told The Daily Star.

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