People and rescue agencies look for bodies in a destroyed area after mudslides, caused by heavy rains leading several rivers to overflow, pushing sediment and rocks into buildings and roads, in Manizales, Colombia, on Wednesday. At least 17 people were killed after the mudslides hit Manizales, disaster relief authorities said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ANALYSIS: BABRI MOSQUE CASE

India's SC order could be blessing in disguise for BJP

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

India's Supreme Court's order restoring the charge of criminal conspiracy against three senior leaders of ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party—L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and federal minister Uma Bharti—in the case relating to the 16th century Babri mosque demolition case are likely to impact the country's political scenario in the run up to key elections to legislatures in a number of states in the next 18 months and the national elections in 2019.

Much will depend on if and how BJP and its political rivals use the apex court order in the political slugfest.

The apex court has ordered that the trial in the case be held on a day-to-day basis and completed in two years. The question in political circles in Delhi is will this help BJP or its rivals politically?

What if the charges against Advani, Joshi and Bharti are upheld by the trial court? What if they are absolved? the Supreme Court order has brought back to life the emotive issue of Ram temple construction in Ayodhya, which had once helped BJP as a major political force in India in 1990s.

The temple issue had lost much of its sheen over the last two decades. Secondly, the daily court hearings in the case could help the saffron party milk its pet Hindutva issue and engineer consolidation of votes ahead of legislative assembly elections in states like Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and finally the parliamentary polls in early 2019. Such a consolidation was one of the key reasons for BJP's astounding victory in recent assembly polls in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh and adjacent state Uttarakhand.

After its win in Uttar Pradesh, BJP today is confident of handling the temple issue mainly because the recent electoral reverses have put the opposition on the defensive. BJP's rivals may not like go ballistic against the party on the temple issue. This was evident in the restraint with which main opposition party Congress reacted to the apex court ruling. The trademark aggression of Congress in seeking to put BJP on the mat on a divisive issue was missing. The party gave a carefully-worded official reaction whose gist is "let the law take its own course".

In the event of the trial court acquitting Advani, Joshi and Bharti, BJP can always hit back at the opposition parties for maligning the party and the three leaders for years. And if they are convicted, which entails a punishment of maximum of five years in jail, the party can project itself as a crusader for Hindutva cause. The real dilemma in BJP is whether or not the two-member apex court ruling Wednesday should be challenged before a bigger bench.

Advani

Joshi

If the apex court ruling is not challenged, BJP and the Modi government can take the moral high ground of not interfering with the due process of law and fair probe.

The Central Bureau of Investigation, which probed the Babri Masjid demolition case, is a federal government agency. If it challenges the apex court ruling, the CBI has to make a U-turn on its view about the charges against the three BJP veterans and others and it will do little to help the agency's image as a non-partisan and fair body and that of the government as non-interfering in the due process of law. If the apex court ruling is not challenged, BJP and the Modi government can take the moral high ground of not interfering with the due process of law and fair investigation. There is, however, a view among a section of party men that not challenging the Supreme Court order will send out a message that it is letting down temple movement votaries at their time of crisis.

Tillerson accuses Iran of 'alarming provocations'

US launches review of policy; Mattis says Tehran destabilising Middle East

REUTERS, *Washington*

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Wednesday accused Iran of 'alarming ongoing provocations' to destabilise countries in the Middle East as the Trump administration launched a review of its policy towards Tehran.

Tillerson told reporters the review, which he announced on Tuesday, would not only look at Tehran's compliance with a 2015 nuclear deal but also its behavior in the region which he said undermined US interests in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon.

Tillerson

Mattis

His tough words matched those of US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who said in a visit to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday that Iran's destabilizing influence would have to be overcome to end the conflict in Yemen.

President Donald Trump ordered the review to evaluate whether suspension of sanctions related to the nuclear deal was "vital to the national security interests of the United States," Tillerson said

Though there was no sign the Trump administration intended to walk away from the deal, Tillerson twice cautioned that if left unchecked Tehran could become a threat like North Korea, which is also under pressure over its nuclear ambitions.

In a letter to US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan released late on Tuesday, Tillerson declared that Iran was meeting its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal but there were concerns about Tehran's role as a state sponsor of terrorism. "A comprehensive Iran policy requires we address all of the threats posed by Iran and it is clear there are many," Tillerson told reporters at the State Department.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif yesterday criticised "worn-out" US accusations that it was seeking a nuclear weapon to threaten the region and the world. "Worn-out US accusations can't mask its admission of Iran's compliance" with a 2015 nuclear deal, Zarif wrote on Twitter.

CITIZENSHIP PROCESS

Australia unveils major changes

AFP, *Sydney*

Canberra yesterday unveiled plans to put "Australian values" at the heart of tougher requirements to gain citizenship, days after scrapping a visa programme for temporary foreign workers.

The moves came against a background of growing populist pressure and a resurgence of the anti-immigration One Nation party led by Pauline Hanson.

"We're defined by commitment to common values, political values, the rule of law, democracy, freedom, mutual respect, equality for men and women," Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told reporters.

"These fundamental values are what make us Australian. Our citizenship process should reflect that.

"So today we are announcing changes to strengthen citizenship, to make for a stronger Australia, stronger citizenship, stronger citizens."

The new requirements include competent English, belief in gender equality and a four-year qualification period.

Candidates for citizenship will be required to be permanent residents for four years against the current one-year period.

They will also need to demonstrate a job record and how they have integrated into the local community.

The current "civics" test for would-be Australians would be expanded to include issues such as domestic violence, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said.

"We are entitled to say if you want to be a citizen of Australia, there are a few things that we want you to demonstrate that you share," Turnbull added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Magura PWD Division, Magura
Tel. No. 0488-62505 & Fax No. 0488-63005
e-mail: ee_magur@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.5500.127.35.024.17/1300 Dated: 06-01-1424 Bang,19-04-2017 Eng

Invitation for Tender (Works) (IFT)
(Open Tendering Method)

(Sealed tenders are invited for the undermentioned work as per brief as per terms and conditions stated below).

	GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.	
2	Agency	Public Works Department (PWD).	
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, Magura PWD Division, Magura.	
4	Procuring entity district	Magura.	
5	Invitation for Tender No.	**16(Civil)/2016-2017**	
6	Invitation for Tender Reference	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দেশের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ১৫৬টি উপজেলা সদর/স্থানে ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স স্টেশন নির্মাণ শীর্ষক প্রকল্প, ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর, কাজী আলাউদ্দিন রোড, ঢাকা কার্যালয়ের স্মারক নং-মপদ/পরি/১৫৬ প্রকল্প/১৫৯/২০১৬, তারিখঃ ০৩/০১/২০১৭খ্রিঃ।	
7	Invitation Memo. No & date	Memo No. 1300, date: 06-01-1424 Bang/19-04-2017 Eng.	
KEY INFORMATION			
8	Tendered method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9	Source of fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
10	Tender project name	দেশের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ১৫৬টি উপজেলা সদর/স্থানে ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স স্টেশন নির্মাণ শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় মাগুরা জেলার শালিখা উপজেলা ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স স্টেশন নির্মাণ কাজ।	
11	Tender publication date	19-04-2017	
12	Tender last selling date & time	21-05-2017	During office hours.
13	Tender submission date and time	22-05-2017	Up to 12:00 noon.
14	Tender opening date & time	22-05-2017	At 3:00pm.
15	Name and address of the office(s) (i) Selling tender document (principal office)	Office of Executive Engineer, Magura PWD Division, Magura.	
	(ii) Selling tender document (other offices)	Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna, Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Dhaka-I & II /Jessore/Kushtia/Faridpur/Rajbari/ Jhenidah/Meherpur/Chuadanga/Narail/Khulna Division-I & II/Shatkhira/ Bagerhat/Chittagong Division-I/Rajshahi Division-I/Sylhet/Rangpur & Barisal.	
No condition apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents.			
16	Name and address of the office(s) (i) Receiving tender (principal office)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Magura PWD Division, Magura.	
	(ii) Receiving tender (other offices)	i) Office of the Executive Engineer, Jessore PWD Division, Jessore. ii) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Magura. iii) Office of the Superintendent of Police, Magura.	
17	Tender opening date & time and place	**22-05-2017** at **3:00pm,** Office of the Executive Engineer, Magura PWD Division.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
18	Eligibility of tenderers	This Invitation for Tenders is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below:	
		(a)	Reputed contractors/construction firms who have minimum 5 (five) years general experience in construction works.
		(b)	(i) Having experience in successful completion of at least **1 (one) number** of similar nature of work worth not less than **Tk 250.00 lac (two hundred fifty lac)** in a single work order in government/semi-government/autonomous organization of Bangladesh during the last 05 (Five) years. (ii) The certificate regarding completion of the work should be verified by the concerned Executive Engineer PWD of that area within whose jurisdiction the work is located. iii) In case of a work done under PWD, the certifying and authenticating authority shall be the concerned Executive Engineer under whom the work has been executed. (iv) In case of a work done under any government/semi-government/autonomous bodies/organization other than PWD the certifying authority shall be an officer of the organization (not below the rank of Executive Engineer).
		(c)	The required average annual construction turnover shall be minimum worth **Tk 400.00 lac (four hundred lac)** throughout the last 05 (five) years against which certificate from **NBR** or **work completion certificate** from the competent authority must be enclosed along with the tender.
		(d)	The minimum amount of free funds **(liquid asset/cash flow)** or credit facility shall be worth **Tk 150.00 lac (one hundred fifty lac) for** as stated in Tender Data Sheet of Tender Document in accordance with ITT Clause 32.1(d) (Form PWD 3-7). (Bank certificate/transaction statement in this regard should be issued not more than 28 (twenty-eight) days before the date of submission of the tender.
		(e)	Other required eligibility and condition of the tenderer are shown in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of tender documents.
19	Brief description of works	As per Tender BOQ.	
20	Price of tender document	Tk **2,500/00** (taka two thousand five hundred) only.	

21	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (Tk) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in prescribed form any schedule bank of favour of EE, PWD Magura	Time for completion of works (months)
	1	দেশের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ১৫৬টি উপজেলা সদর/স্থানে ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স স্টেশন নির্মাণ শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় মাগুরা জেলার শালিখা উপজেলা ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স স্টেশন নির্মাণ কাজ।	শালিখা, মাগুরা	**Tk 11,00,000/00 (Taka eleven lac) only**	**18 (eighteen) months**

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
22	Name of official inviting tender	**Prodip Kumar Bose.**		
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer.		
24	Address of official inviting tender	Magura PWD Division, Magura.		
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. (0488) 62505	Fax No. 0488-63005	e-mail: ee_magur@pwd.gov.bd

26	Special instructions	(a) If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited.
		(b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
		(c) In case of any govt. holiday on last selling/dropping dates, the next normal working day will be treated as the valid dates of selling, dropping and opening of the tender as the case arises. Time & other terms and conditions shall remain uncharged & no separate notice will be issued for this.
		(d) Details particulars of tender can be seen and obtained from the concerned office during the office hours.
		(e) Up-to-date ABC category contractor's and supervisory licence from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh.
		(f) In addition to original tender, extra 02 (two) copies shall be submitted.
		(g) The modification of the tender price must be on item-wise unit price by figure but not on percentage basis.
		(h) If the modification of the tender is made on percentage basis either on unit rate or on overall quoted rate, the modification will not be accepted.
		(i) If the tender is invited for a single lot under single package, discount for the tender in the tender submission sheet is not applicable. Discounts must be mentioned in the respective column of the tender submission sheet by figure and not by percentage. It is only applicable for the tender multiple lots under single package.
		(j) Certificate from the original manufacture of supplier ensuring availability of spare parts of the lifts for the next 15 (fifteen) years must be submitted with the tender.
		(k) Tenders quoting lower than 10% (ten) or higher than 10% (ten) of the estimated cost, shall be rejected.
		(l) Selection of contractor may be done according to PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 and the amendments of the rules when more than one tenders become lowest. (Same tender amount).

Prodip Kumar Bose
Executive Engineer
Magura PWD Division, Magura

GD-839

NEWS IN *brief*

Trump to attend three Asian summits in Nov

REUTERS, *Jakarta*

US President Donald Trump will attend three summits in Asia in November, Vice President Mike Pence said in Jakarta during a visit to the headquarters of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday. He said the Trump administration would work with Asean on security issues and trade and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Pentagon chief pledges support for Egypt's Sisi

AFP, *Cairo*

US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and top brass in Cairo yesterday, pledging support for the American ally on his first regional tour. The brief visit, with Mattis later setting off to Israel, came after Sisi hit it off with Trump during a White House meeting earlier this month.

May to make pledge to end EU free movement

REUTERS, *London*

Prime Minister Theresa May will make a formal pledge ahead of the June 8 election to end European Union free movement of people into Britain, the Daily Mail newspaper reported, citing unidentified party sources. May will also include pledges in her election manifesto to pull out of both the EU single market and European Court of Justice.

US Vice President Mike Pence accompanied by Chief Imam Nasaruddin Umar (R) and Chairman of the Istiqlal Mosque Management Executive Board, Muhammad Muzammil Basyuni during his visit to the Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. Pence has sought to use his trip to soften some of the harsher edges of rhetoric about the Muslim world used by President Donald Trump.

PHOTO: REUTERS

China's New Silk Road must be open to Europeans

Says EU's top diplomat Mogherini in Beijing

REUTERS, *Beijing*

Projects along China's New Silk Road must be open to Europeans, the EU's top diplomat said yesterday, as China's prepares its first summit dedicated to the ambitious plan to link Asia, Africa and Europe.

President Xi Jinping has championed what China calls the "One Belt, One Road" initiative involving billions of dollars of investment in infrastructure including roads, railways, ports and power grids.

"Obviously, for us it is essential that the opportunities are opened up for all including Europeans," the EU's top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, told students at the elite Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"I know that some in the world are concerned about a more confident and outward looking China. I do not share this view," she said.

Representatives of 110 countries, including most Asian leaders, will gather in Beijing next month for the New Silk Road summit, China's biggest diplomatic event of the year.

China has sought to improve ties with 16 Central and Eastern Europe countries directly under an initiative launched in November 2016, dubbed "16+1", to fund mostly infrastructure development in Europe.

China and the European Union should promote a "positive signal" of economic globalisation and free and fair trade, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told Mogherini on Tuesday.

Mogherini and China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, spoke on Tuesday about the need to work together on hot-spot issues including North Korea and Syria, as well as the need to avoid protectionism.

Plastic pollution builds up in Arctic waters

AFP, *Miami*

Even though few people live in the Artic, some seas in the region are heavily polluted with plastic because of an Atlantic ocean current which dumps debris there, researchers said Wednesday.

Scientists aboard the globe traveling French schooner, Tara, in 2013 were surprised to find the seas east of Greenland and north of Scandinavia are a dead-end for plastics, said the report in the journal Science Advances.

The findings "stress the importance of properly managing plastic litter at its source, because once it enters the ocean, its destination can be unpredictable," said the report.