



Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, centre, out campaigning with her brother and sister.

PHOTO: STAR

## Indian finance

FROM PAGE 20

invitation of his counterpart AMA Muhith when a \$4.5 billion Line of Credit (LoC) is expected to be signed.

"We have not yet got the draft copy of the LoC. If this is available soon an agreement may be signed," the official said.

During Prime minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to India, India committed to give Bangladesh \$5 billion LoC, and a primary agreement was signed in that regard.

Of this \$4.5 billion will be given for various development projects, including economic zones, ports and road infrastructures, and river restoration. The two countries have already come up with 17 projects to be funded by the new credit.

The remaining \$500m will be made available for defence procurement.

During Arun Jaitley's visit a final agreement is expected to be signed which may include details of interest on loans and other terms and conditions, a finance ministry official said.

It is proposed that the terms and conditions of the loan would remain as it was in earlier loans, the official added.

India signed the first and the second LoC with Bangladesh with financing of more than \$3 billion and \$2 billion respectively. In March 2016 India's Exim Bank and Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division signed an agreement making the loan in the second LoC effective from May 2016.

The rate of interest on the loans was 1 percent. Other conditions of the loan stipulated that in general it will be 7.5 percent. But a specific provision for civil construction of Indian content will be 6.5 percent.

Until March this year, India disbursed a little over 50 percent of the \$1.06 billion loan it sanctioned in August 2010.

Of the first loan, \$200 million was channeled to the Padma bridge project in grant. New Delhi later provided another \$62 million after the cost of several projects rose. The total amount of credit finally stood at \$862 million, of which \$535 million has been received so far.

Our New Delhi correspondent adds: Durs with his Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Jaitley will seek to expedite the project of identification and implementation under the LoC.

Jaitley, who also holds the additional charge of Defence, will also discuss Bangladesh's requirements in defence under the 500 million dollar credit line. Although officials there are tight-lipped as to whether Dhaka has already communicated its preferences for the defence hardware under the concessional loan, they made it clear that India would be guided by Bangladesh's priorities and requests. Where Dhaka will have to look at what the supply possibilities are available for the same.

Saudi Arabia's closure of Qatar's only land border sparked fears of major price hikes and food shortages for its population of 2.7 million people, with long queues forming as some supermarkets began running out of stock.

With supply chains disrupted and anxiety mounting about deepening economic turbulence, banks and firms in Gulf Arab states were seeking to keep business links to Qatar open and avoid a costly freeze of assets.

Turkey has brought forward a planned troop deployment to Qatar and pledged to provide food and water supplies to its Arab ally, which hosts a Turkish military base. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said isolating Qatar would not resolve any problems.

The UAE's national postal service, Emirates Post Group, suspended all postal services to Qatar, state news agency WAM said, in the latest in a series of measures degrading commercial and communications links with Doha.

The Abu Dhabi Petroleum Ports Authority also reimposed a ban on oil tankers linked to Qatar calling at ports in the UAE, reversing an earlier decision to ease restrictions and potentially creating a logjam of crude cargoes.

Muhiith is expected to flag the issue of anti-dumping duty imposed by India on jute products from Bangladesh and Jaitley is likely to convey to him that India is willing to go the extra mile to address the issue.

The two Finance Ministers are also likely to deliberate on taking forward the cooperation in civil nuclear sector.

An MoU was signed during Hasina's visit in this regard envisaging the transfer and exchange of knowledge, supply and management of components for use in nuclear power plants, treatment and disposal of radioactive waste, nuclear safety and radiation safety, exchange of information and training of personnel to deal with various aspects of safety and regulatory issues pertaining to operations of nuclear facilities.

His second intervention in the

## Tough race

FROM PAGE 1

are contesting as Labour Party candidates, one as a Liberal Democrat, one as a Friend Party nominee and others as independent candidates.

During yesterday's election day, Tulip Siddiq released a statement stating that since becoming MP in 2015, she has spoken to thousands of residents about issues that are close to their hearts.

Tulip said she would fight for close links with Europe. She added that the worst thing "we can do is allow another Conservative MP into Westminster to deliver Theresa May's 'no deal'."

Tulip expressed her commitment to providing the strongest possible voice in scrutinising the Brexit process.

On the recent terror attacks, she said the horrors of the terrorist attack in Manchester and London have meant grief, outrage and urgent recognition of the need to think about how "we tackle violent extremism and the need to ensure our emergency services are well resourced to respond."

If re-elected, she promised to fight for sustainable funding for the NHS (National Health Service).

"Above all else, vote for me will be a vote for a strong, local voice. I will always listen to you before I act in Parliament," Tulip Siddiq said.

**RUSHANARA ALI**

Rushanara Ali was first elected in May 2010 with a majority of 11,574, having defeated George Galloway's Respect Party. Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in East London was one of four Labour gains in 2010. Rushanara was re-elected in 2015, doubling her majority to 24,317 and earning 61% share of the vote.

Between October 2010 and October 2013, she has served as the Shadow Minister for International Development. Rushanara Ali has previously served as a member of the Treasury Select Committee and the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee. In April 2016, Rushanara was appointed as the Prime Minister's

Trade Envoy to Bangladesh.

**TULIP SIDDIQ**

Tulip Siddiq was the second candidate from the Labour Party in London's Hampstead and Kilburn area. Tulip Siddiq, the eldest daughter of Sheikh Rehana, was selected on 14 July 2013 as the Labour Party candidate for the high marginal seat of North London's Hampstead and Kilburn for the 2015 general election.

In 2015, being the second Bengali woman to enter the UK Parliament she said, "I am of Bengali origin but the main thing is that I am a local girl from a local constituency, and if I get into parliament, my main focus will be my constituency and the local residents. I am proud of my roots but I did grow up in Hampstead and Kilburn, and that is the people I want to represent. It doesn't matter where they are from, because we do have a multicultural society there. Regardless of where they are from, I want to make sure their voices are heard."

**RUPA HUQ**

The third Bengali to enter parliament in 2015 was Rupa Huq from London Borough of Ealing which has been her constituency since 2010.

She said, "I have genuinely loved serving as MP since 2015. It is incredibly gratifying to help people out and change lives no two days are the same. Over the past two years, I have dealt with more than 17,000 problems and issues brought to me by my constituents on diverse topics including the difficulties people face getting on the housing ladder to the way the Tories attempt to balance the books on the backs of society's most vulnerable."

Last year, the people of Ealing and Acton voted by 72% to 28% to re-elect Rupa Huq. Rupa Huq had said she would never vote for anything which would damage their livelihoods and living standards. Rupa Huq has been serving as a Shadow Home Affairs Minister. She secured a three-hour debate on the consequences of Brexit for overseas students.

## Qatar defiant

FROM PAGE 20

outrage.

"It is a blockade! Like that of Berlin. A declaration of war. A political, economic and social aggression," a Qatari diplomat said. "We need the world to condemn the aggressors."

Saudi Arabia's closure of Qatar's only land border sparked fears of major price hikes and food shortages for its population of 2.7 million people, with long queues forming as some supermarkets began running out of stock.

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Turkey initially took sides with the Saudi-led group before apparently being nudged into a more even-handed approach when US defence officials approached Turkey, US military base, mindful of the major US military base hosted by Qatar that serves, in part, as a launchpad for strikes on Islamic State jihadists.

Its second intervention in the

dispute in as many days, Trump urged action against terrorism in a call with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, a White House statement said, suggesting a meeting at the White House "if necessary".

It said that Trump, in a later call with Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, called for unity among Gulf Arabs "but, never at the expense of eliminating funding for radical extremism or defeating terrorism."

Officials from Qatar and its Arab neighbours in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were pursuing shuttle diplomacy, with the Qatari foreign minister due in Moscow and Brussels and Bahrain's king visiting his ally Egypt for talks on the crisis.

The Qatari ambassador to Washington, Meshal Hamad al-Thani, wrote on Twitter that a key pillar of Doha's foreign policy was mediation.

Qatar's foreign minister met Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's ruler, for talks. The Kuwaiti emir also went to the UAE and Qatar on Wednesday for more consultations.

But a diplomat in Kuwait briefed by foreign ministry officials said the emir's diplomacy had been about damage control and had yet to produce tangible results, with personality clashes playing a big role in the impasse.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said Gulf states could resolve the dispute among themselves without outside help.

"We have not asked for mediation, we believe this issue can be dealt with among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," he told a news conference on Wednesday during a visit to Berlin, broadcast on Saudi state television.

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## Tigers' chance

FROM PAGE 1

Cardiff's Sophia Gardens today, but for at least 24 hours it will brighten the dream of something big. If England fail to beat Australia tomorrow, then Australia and England will go through from Group A.

However, to keep that dream alive Bangladesh are perhaps in the best place and playing a team they feel most confident of beating in their group. When they take the field in the rectangular-shaped ground at 10.30am (9.30pm Bangladesh time) the Tigers will have to be at their best. Otherwise they created a small piece of history 12 years ago – a magnificent win against the mighty Australians on June 18, 2005.

Going into the game there are a few things they can dictate – they will have to play good hard cricket as a unit. But to start with they need a combination which was stable for quite some time and brought them success over the last two years. In the last two games the team management tried to do too many things and it did not work for them. They played with eight batsmen against England and desperately felt the need of a bowler while defending a total of 305.

Against Australia they fielded four genuine bowlers but a shuffle in the batting order did not work. It also showed a lack of self-belief. The introduction of Imrul Kayes at number three has so far proved a waste. It also made a mockery of the concept that your best batsman occupies the top of the order. Bangladesh filled that void with the help of former Sabir Rahman might not find against a quality seam bowling attack. The biggest problem for Bangladesh has so far been their lower order. It is so fragile that the pacers in the team cannot even put together 10 runs – Bangladesh could score only one run for the loss of their last four wickets against Australia. The job of the bowlers is to take wickets but the way they bat makes it seem like they hardly do much-needed batting practice in the nets.

There are a few things out of their control and most importantly the fickle England weather. This is a game during which Bangladesh will pray that rain stays away. The weather forecast at the moment is not bad for a game to have a result. A brief spell of rain might delay the start but it may promises a full-length game with cloud dominating the over.

The Tigers should also be wary of New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who is in the best of form. He actually played the key role in a series sweep when Bangladesh toured New Zealand at the turn of the year. The sublime right-hand batsman has already scored a century against Australia and hit 80+ in the next game against England, which is his team's last.

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal is also in the best of form and has done something more spectacular than Williamson. The left-hander hit a majestic 128 against England and followed it up with a sumptuous 95 against Australia.

The royal Bangladesh fans, who are set to dominate the Sophia Gardens audience after painting The Oval green against Australia, will want Tamim to carry on with the bat and more importantly pray his contribution counts toward a win.

**Raudha's father**

FROM PAGE 2

dead on March 29.

Police inquest and autopsy report said the Maldivian girl committed suicide. However, Athif rejected them and kept insisting that his daughter was murdered.

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**5 cases filed**

FROM PAGE 2

The gold and diamonds were later deposited with Bangladeshi bank.

There was no transparency regarding the gold worth about Tk 274.35 crore and diamonds worth around Tk 10 crore, CIIPO officials said.

Both the bank and the jeweller went for the cash and the jeweller alleged by one of the Banani rape victims that prime accused Shafat bragged about his gold smuggling.

Shafat also boasted about their wealth and said police would not touch them when the two girls warned that they would go to the law enforcers, according to the testimony of one of the victims.

Invited to Shafat's birthday party on Friday, the girls went to the Raintree Dhaka hotel in Banani around 9.00pm. After the party, Shafat and his friend Nayem Ashraf also went to their room and raped them in two rooms, alleged one of the girls who filed a case.

Shafat and Nayem confessed to raping the girls while three other accused – Shafat's driver Bilal Hossain, bodyguard Rashed and victim's friend Shadman Salik – admitted their involvement in the incident.

Police yesterday pressed charges against the five Banani rape accused with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Russia has denied such interference

## JS caucus links arson

FROM PAGE 20

security and give exemplary punishment to the perpetrators involved in the incident.

He also called upon the government to conduct an impartial investigation into what he said was the murder of local Juba League leader Nurul Islam Nayan.

The arson attacks on indigenous people took place on June 2 in three villages in Sonai Upazila, Tintila and Manikchakbaria – after the discovery of the dead body of Nayan in adjacent Kachalgang river.

Meanwhile, tension mounted in Longadu centring on the recovery of dead body of another Bangladeshi settler, aged around 40, from near the Kachalgang river. And that happened after the ruling party representatives led by Health Minister Mohammed Nasim returned from Longadu.

Police are yet to identify the body found in Sonai village of Manikchakbaria, adjacent to Longadu Union Parishad.

Referring to the sorry state of the Adivasis who are now living under the open sky, Basha said, "They have no shelter, no security."

The arson attacks were "well-planned" and the conspirators used "the killing of the Juba League leader" as an excuse to make the attacks, he added.

A section of political force was involved in the incident, said the chief of that parliamentary body on indigenous people.

"A conspiracy is going on to create unrest in the hills when a process is on to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts treaty, when land commission is being formed."

Awami League MP Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, another member of the caucus, said Longadu incident was not an isolated one. "There was political interest behind it."

Lawmakers Nazmul Haq Pradhan and Moshabek Kamal, also part of the parliamentary watchdog of the CHT affairs ministry, raised questions as to

what law enforcement agencies and the local administration had been doing during the attacks.

### ANOTHER BODY FOUND IN LANGADU

The other dead body, yet to be identified, was found yesterday morning.

Chairman of Mainmohun Union Parishad Abdul Barel Sarkar said locals from Langadu centre came to the body near the Kachalgang river in Sonai upazila around 7.00am. On information, police recovered the body.

No one could identify the man. A fresh tension gripped the locality after the recovery of the body, said Mohammed Rakib Hassan, vice-president of Longadu upazila Chittagong Chhatra League.

Police initially found no injury marks on the body but suspected that the man had drowned in Longadu.

Several hundred Bangladeshi settlers from all seven union parishads of Longadu brought out a procession with the body of Nayan last Friday. Some of the mourners coming out of the crowd set fire to the houses to the houses of the dead.

The body was sent to a Ramangami hospital.

Following the incident, male members of Bangladeshi families left their houses as police filed a case accusing 15 named and 300/400 unnamed of the killing of the indigenous people.

The affected Advadis are yet to return to their villages.

"Still, people have not returned to their houses. There was nothing left of their houses," said Atharakhchara Union Parishad Chairman Mangal Kantu Chakma who himself took shelter at a monastery, Tintila Bih.

Police and army personnel were sent to the affected areas, said Basha, but indigenous people were feeling insecure as law enforcers already failed to protect them once.

Anil Chakma and Minhaj Uddin contributed to the story.

## Trump admin

FROM PAGE 20

In testimony being closely watched by Trump, his allies and leaders across Washington, Comey provided in some detail his personal interaction with Trump that preceded his abrupt ouster.

Some of his harshest words came early in the hearing, as Comey stated that his purpose was to create unrest in the hills when a process is on to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts treaty.

He had reportedly told Comey he was doing a great job and he hoped it would last. Comey said, "I am really a fan of your work. I am grateful to you for your service."

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Some legal experts said Comey's testimony could strengthen any impeachment attempt in Congress to force Trump to resign.

Comey was testifying, a White House source said Trump disputes two key points in Comey's testimony: that he asked the FBI director to let go of the Flynn probe, and that he asked for Comey to testify that he kept notes after a series of meetings with Trump.

Comey testified that he kept notes after a series of meetings with Trump, but he was not told to keep them.

The White House has given shifting explanations on why Trump fired Comey. Trump has called Comey a "showboat" and a "grandstand" and said he was thinking of "this Russia thing."

Trump's son Donald Trump Jr fired Comey's testimony announced in January that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an effort to help Trump win the 2016 election by discrediting Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton in part through the hacking and disclosure of damaging emails.

### Khamenei

FROM PAGE 20

Tehran defence ministry yesterday said that the five Iranians were Islamic State group members who had been to its strongholds in Iraq and Syria.

"The five known terrorists... after joining the Daesh (IS) terrorist group, left the country and participated in crimes committed by this terrorist group in Mosul and Raqa," the defence ministry said in a statement.

It suggested they were rather five attackers rather than the six originally reported.

The ministry released their photographs and first names, and said they were part of a network that entered Iran in July-August 2016 under the leadership of "high-ranking Daesh commander" Abu Aisha intending to carry out "terrorist operations in religious cities."

Abu Aisha was killed and the network forced to flee the country, the statement said. It was not clear when the five men returned to Iran ahead of Wednesday's attacks.

The Sunni jihadists of IS consider Shia Iran to be apostates, and Tehran is deeply involved in fighting the group in both Syria and Iraq.

Speaking earlier on Wednesday, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani called for global unity against violent extremism, and