



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

Indian finance

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invitation of his counterpart AMA Muthit (LoC) is expected to be signed.

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

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

Of this \$4.5b 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 to the second LoC effective from May 2016.

During Asim Jiletti's visit a final agreement which includes details of interest on loans and other terms and conditions of the second LoC effective from May 2016.

The rate of interest on the loans was 1 per cent. Other conditions of the loan stipulated that in general for a project the Indian credit will have to be 75 percent. In particular, joint projects of civil construction the Indian credit will be 65 percent.

Until March this year, India disbursed a little more than 50 percent of the preference in the second LoC sanctioned in August 2010.

Of the first loan, \$200 million was channelled to the Padma bridge project in grant. New Delhi later provided another \$62 million after the total amount of credit finally stood at \$862 million, of which \$353 million has been received so far.

Our New Delhi correspondent adds: "Our talks with Finance Minister AMA Muthit, India will seek to expedite the pace of projects identification and implementation under the LoC."

Finance, 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 here are tight-lipped as to whether Dhaka has already communicated its specific needs, New Delhi needs to look at what the supply possibilities are available for the same.

In April this year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pitched for Indian assistance to build a Padma-Ganga waterway and river delta management and both matters are likely to come up in Jiletti's talks with Muthit.

Muthit is expected to flag the issue of anti-dumping duty imposed by India on June products. India 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 be engaged on taking forward the cooperation in civil nuclear sector.

An MoU was signed during Hasina's visit in this regard envisaging transfer and exchange of knowledge, supply and use of 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.

Tough race

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are contesting as Labour Party candidates, one as a Liberal Democrat, one as a Friends of Labour Party and four others as independent contenders.

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.

"We said that we 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 attacks 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'."

"I've received the promises to fight for a sustainable future for the NHS (National Health Service)."

"Above all else, a 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.

RUSHANARALI
Rushanara Ali, first elected in May 2015 with a majority of 11,574, having defeated George Gallows and Rossy Papp.

Between October 2010 and October 2015, 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 the April 2016, Rushanara was appointed as the Prime Minister's

Trade Envoy to Bangladesh.

TULIP SIDDIQ
Tulip Siddiq was the second candidate to contest and win at the last general election from the Labour Party in London's Hampstead and Kilburn area. Tulip Siddiq, the eldest daughter of Sheikh Rehana, was selected on 14 July 2015 as the Labour Party candidate for the highly marginal seat of North London's Hampstead and Kilburn for the 2015 general election.

In 2015, the second Bengali woman to enter the UK Parliament she said, "I am of Bangladeshi origin but the main thing is that I am a local girl, from a local constituency, and 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's Borough of Ealing which has been her home, and her family's home.

She said, "I have genuinely loved serving as MP since 2015. It's 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 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 remain in the European Union. 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.

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

Qatar's closure of the border with Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, called for unity among Gulf Arabs "but not at the expense of eliminating funding for radical extremism or defeating terrorism".

Officials from the United Arab Emirates and the United Arab Emirates also went to the UAE and Qatar neighbours in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were pursuing shuttle diplomacy, with the Qatari foreign minister due in Moscow and Brussels and Bahraini king visiting his ally Egypt for talks on the crisis.

Washington, Mashaal Ahmad al-Thani, wrote on Twitter that a key pillar of Doha's foreign policy was mediation.

Oman'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 the Emir's diplomacy had not 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.

Tigers' chance

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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 to play a waste. However, to keep that dream alive Bangladesh are perhaps in their 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 mark their return to a place where 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 strong 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 was so far proven a waste.

It also made a mockery of the concept that your best batsman occupies that important slot. But Bangladesh filled that void with the nearly-famous Babbar Rahman might not have been a quality spin bowling attack. The biggest problem for Bangladesh is so far against the pacers in the team can not even put together 10 runs -- Bangladesh could score 10 runs in the last 10 overs 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 some 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 play that rain stays away. The weather forecast says rain is not a bad for a game to have a result. A brief spell of rain might delay the start but Friday promises a full-length game with cloud dominating the sun over Cardiff.

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-hander has been one of the best batsmen against Australia and hit 80-odd in the next game against England, which his team lost.

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

The loyal 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 pay his contribution counts toward a win.

Raudha's father

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dead on March 29.

Police investigator and report said that the 18-year-old girl committed suicide. However, Abif rejected them and kept insisting that his daughter was murdered.

5 cases filed

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The gold and diamonds were later deposited with Bangladesh Bank.

There was no transparency regarding the gold worth about Tk 274.35 crore, said the police.

CIID officials last month went to the crackdown aimed allegation by the emir of the Banani rape victims that prime accused had bragged about being a gold smuggler.

Shafat also boasted about their wealth and said police would not touch them when they two girls warned that they would go to the law.

Invited to Shafat's birthday party on March 28, the girls went to the Rainforest Dhaka hotel in Banani around 9.00pm.

Shafat and his friend Nayef Ashraf alias Halim raped them in two rooms, alleged one of the girls who filed the case.

Shafat and Nayef confessed to raping the girls, who later filed a case -- Shafat's driver Bilal Hossain, bodyguard and victims' friend Shadman Sakif -- admitted their involvement in the charges.

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

IS caucus links arson

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seconds 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 London-based Bangladesh leader Nurul Islam Nayan.

The arson attacks on indigenous people took place on June 2 in three villages of Baidyapara, Titajila and Mahabhorcho, after the discovery of the dead body of Nayan in a Khagrachhari detention mounted in London around 40, from near the Kachalong river. And that happened after the ruling party representatives led by Health Minister Mohammed Nasim returned from London.

Police are yet to identify the body found at Sonai village of Mainimukh Union Parishad, adjacent to Longdu Union Parishad.

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

The arson attacks were "well-planned and the conspirators used the killing of the local 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 the parliamentarian body on indigenous affairs.

"An conspiracy is going on to create unrest in the hills when a process is on to negotiate the long-standing Chittagong Tracts treaty, when land commission is being formed."

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

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

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

ANOTHER BODY FOUND IN LONGADU
The other dead body, yet to be identified, was found yesterday morning.

Chief Minister of Mainimukh Union Parishad Abdul Bari Sarkar said locals first came across the body near the Kachalong river in Sonai upazila around 7:00am. On information, police recovered the body from the Bangladesh Chittagong League.

No one could identify the man. A fresh tension gripped the locality after the recovery of the body, said Mohammed Kabir Hassan, vice-chairman of Longdu upazila Bangladesh Chittagong League.

Police initially found no injuries on the body and suspected they might have drowned in the river. The body was recovered from the Longdu Police Station.

The body was sent to a Ranganamati hospital for autopsy.

Several hundred Bangladeshi settlers from all seven union parishads in Longdu 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 of members of the indigenous people.

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

The arrested 400 were yet to return to their villages.

"Still, people have not returned to their houses. There was nothing left of the houses of the indigenous people. Union Parishad Chairman Mangal Chakma who himself took shelter at a monastery, Titajila Bon Bihar.

Police and army personnel were regularly patrolling the affected areas, he said, but indigenous people were feeling insecure as law enforcers allegedly failed to protect them.

Chief Minister of Mainimukh Union Parishad said he had contributed to the story.

Trump admin

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

Some of his harshest words came early in the hearing, as Comey suggested his first firing turned out to be a series of evolving explanations for the ouster.

"He had repeatedly told me I was doing a great job and he hoped I would stay," Comey said in a series of conversations with the president. "He told me repeatedly he had talked to lots of people about me including our learned friends and I was doing a great job and he hoped I would stay."

"It confused me when I saw the president on TV saying he actually fired me because the Russia investigation," he said. "I was also confused by the initial explanation offered publicly that I was fired because of decisions I made during the election... That didn't make sense."

Comey accused the White House of flattery when it said the FBI workforce was widely dissatisfied with his performance.

"The White House had no real reason at all to fire the FBI director, the administration then chose to defame me and more importantly the FBI by saying that the organisation was dissatisfied with the way I had lost confidence in its leader."

"Those were lies, plain and simple," he said.

The direct accusation was a extraordinary in a scandal that has engulfed Trump's presidency and threatens to consume even more of the administration's focus in the coming months, as Trump faces the question of whether he tried to obstruct justice.

Meanwhile, Marc Kasowitz, outside counsel for Trump, disputed key points of Comey's testimony, and said in a statement that a Senate hearing established that the president had not investigated for corruption or obstruction, according to a Reuters report.

He said Trump did not ask Comey for his loyalty and did not direct or suggest Comey to stop investigating former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

"The president never, in form or substance, directed or suggested that Mr. Comey stop investigating anyone, including suggestions that Mr. Comey 'let Flynn go'," said Kasowitz.

Flannery was seen as a central player in the ongoing controversy about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, and his decision to step potential collusion between Trump associates and Russian leaders irked the president.

Trump's move to oust Comey fuelled allegations that the president pressed not only the former FBI director but other top officials to intervene in the Russia probe.

The hearing could have significant repercussions for Trump, as special counsel Robert Mueller and several congressional committees investigate alleged Russian efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election and whether Trump's campaign colluded with them.

Russia has denied such interference

and the White House has denied any collusion.

RUSSIA ISSUE
The Russia issue has dogged Trump's first months in office, with critics in Congress and the media saying the FBI probe could amount to obstruction of justice.

Some legal experts said Comey's testimony could strengthen any impeachment case in Congress to remove Trump from office built on an allegation of obstruction of justice.

As Comey was testifying, a White House source said Trump disputed two key points of Comey's testimony. He asked the FBI director to let go of the Flynn probe, and that he asked for Comey's loyalty.

Trump's son Donald Trump Jr fired off a series of tweets attacking Comey but the president himself stayed off social media while the drama played out in Congress.

Investors were little changed as stocks continued to kick off as investors continued to see as unlikely that Comey's testimony would result in an end to Trump's presidency.

Trump's testimony was expected to be followed by his next notes after meeting with Trump because "I was honestly concerned that he might lie about the nature of our meeting, and so I thought it really important to document it."

The White House has given shifting explanations on why Trump fired Comey. Trump has called Comey "showboat" and a "grandstander."

"It was this kind of 'intelligence agencies' in dismissing him."

Russia has denied US intelligence agencies' conclusion announced in January that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an effort to sway the 2016 election by discrediting Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton in part through the hacking and disclosure of damaging emails.

Khamenei

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Tehran defence ministry yesterday said that the five Iranians were Islamic State group members who had been in Iran since July-August 2016.

The five men were terrorists... after joining the Daesh (IS) terrorist group, left the country and participated in crimes carried out by this terrorist group in Mosul and Raqqa," the defence ministry said in a statement.

It suggested there were only 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 intended 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 if 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's Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

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