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**Connectivity beyond** Bangladesh, India

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The countries aim during bilateral talks between Hasina, Modi; resolve to settle pending issues

### STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi have renewed commitments to solidify relations between the two countries and establish peace and stability in the entire South Asia region.

ng Love In Every Bite

The visiting Indian PM sat with Hasina yesterday evening to discuss ways of settling the pending issues and the future course of action that can take the ties between the two countries to new heights.

At the bilateral meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka, they put emphasis on robust regional connectivity for expanding trade.

Modi lauded Hasina's initiatives regarding multimodal connectivity.

Bangladesh expressed its interest to join the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project for getting connected to Southeast Asia by road. Also, it has sought

greater access to Indian territory to connect with Nepal and Bhutan, and requested Delhi to approve new routes.

Modi flew back home last night, wrapping up his two-day visit. Earlier on Friday, he took part in the celebrations of Mujib Borsho, the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

At a press briefing last night, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said, "If this initiative is implemented, Bangladesh's export capacity will increase as it will largely reduce time and cost of transporting goods.

Dhaka also sought to establish rail connectivity up to Bhutan through the recently inaugurated Chilahati-Haldibari route.

"The relationship between Bangladesh and India has been a model of bilateral SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted this photo yesterday afternoon of himself, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheilkh Rehana in Tungipara where they paid tributes at the grave of Father of

PHOTO: TWITTER.COM/ NARENDRAMODI

## Facebook inaccessible for many

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People have been experiencing unusually long loading time and other difficulties accessing Facebook and Messenger due to restrictions allegedly the authorities have placed after the death of five people in Friday's violence during demonstrations against Indian Premier Narendra Modi's visit. According to

officials familiar with the development, law enforcement agencies decided to shut down Facebook to control what they said would be the spread of violence because many people were giving constant updates of the situation in Brahmanbaria and Haathazari.

## For second day, the Islamist group stages violent protests; unconfirmed sources say 5 shot dead in B'baria; countrywide hartal called for today



Hefajat mayhem on

### STAR REPORT

Hefajat-e-Islam held demonstrations for a second day yesterday, with the group turning violent in several districts. Five protesters, including a minor, were killed in Brahmanbaria as Hefajat

in reaction to the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Hefajat also protested the death of five people on Friday. The death toll in the last two days stood at 10 and at least one of them was a bystander.

The minor killed was a 14-year-old. The clash between Hefajat and BGB in

# Covid cases jump 85pc in a week,

The number of new Covid-19 cases has increased by 85 percent while the deaths have increased by 42.5 percent in the last

seven days compared to the previous week. Meanwhile, the health directorate reported 39 deaths in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday -- the highest in the last three and half months.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data, a total of 201 Covid-19 patients died in seven days ending yesterday while the number of SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



## Myanmar forces kill 90 protesters

### REUTERS

Security forces yesterday killed more than 90 people, including some children, across Myanmar in one of the bloodiest days of protests since a military coup last month, news reports and witnesses said.

The lethal crackdown, which took place on Armed Forces Day, drew strong renewed criticism from Western countries. British Ambassador Dan Chugg said the security forces had "disgraced themselves" and the US envoy called the violence horrifying.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the junta leader, said during a parade to mark Armed Forces Day that the military would protect the people and strive for democracy.

State television had said on Friday that protesters risked being shot "in the head and back". Despite this, demonstrators came out on the streets of SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

> GLOBAL AIR SPECIALIST FROM JAPAN

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the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The photo was taken after Modi planted a tree there.

# deaths 42pc STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the country's users have not been able to access Facebook after 5:30pm Friday. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

supporters clashed allegedly with members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), which was deployed across the country after Friday's protests took a violent turn. While vesterday's demonstrations were

Brahmanbaria took place on the Cumilla-Sylhet highway, reported our correspondent in the district.

At least 16 people were also injured, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2





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