



P3
DAP proposes area-wise schooling for Dhaka city



P6
India unveils first homemade aircraft carrier



WR1
War in Ukraine tests West's unity



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SATIRE Hard to take catches past your bedtime

PM'S INDIA VISIT

Focus on ENERGY cooperation

PORIMOL PALMA

Enhancing energy cooperation to address the challenges posed by high fuel and commodity prices in the wake of the Ukraine war will top the agenda when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits India on September 5-8.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Delhi said the two countries may finalise a long-term agreement on the import of fuel oil from India, which is buying huge Russian crude oil at a discounted price.

Bangladesh made a record hike in the prices of fuel last month, leading to a further rise in the costs of essentials -- which created unease in the Awami League government gearing up for the national election likely next year.

"India is in a better position on the fuel issue. So, we will try to go for a long-term deal with them if they have



PRIORITIES DURING THE VISIT

- Long-term supply of fuel oil
- Unhindered supply of commodities
- Removing anti-dumping duty on jute
- Water sharing of common rivers
- Expediting connectivity projects
- Regional hydro-power grid connections

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Ganges water sharing treaty
- Transit and transshipment deals
- Resolving land and maritime disputes
- Stabilising insurgency in Northeast india

a surplus," Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen told reporters at his office on August 29.

Hasina will visit New Delhi at the invitation of her counterpart Narendra Modi, who came to Dhaka last year to join the celebrations marking the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Analysts say her visit will provide a framework for multi-dimensional relations after the two countries resolved major disputes over land and maritime boundaries.

"The state-level visit will be crucial given the global

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From left, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; MA Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group; founder and CEO of bKash Ltd; MA Mannan, planning minister; Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of PRAN-RFL Group; Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh; and RS Subramanian, managing director of DHL Express India, pose for a photograph at the 20th Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at the capital's Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel last night.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Business icons honoured

An entrepreneur, 2 companies get DHL-Star Business Awards; planning minister assures business community of full support from govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A business group with global footprints, an intrepid entrepreneur and a game-changing financial institution were felicitated with the Bangladesh Business Awards for their exemplary contribution to the economy.

MA Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group, was the Business Person of the Year, PRAN-RFL Group the Enterprise of the Year and leading mobile financial service provider bKash the Best Financial Institution in the 20th edition of the award introduced by DHL Express and The Daily Star.

Planning Minister MA Mannan handed over the trophies to the winners at a gala event at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the presence of RS Subramanian, managing director of DHL Express India; Md Miarul Haque, MD of DHL Express Bangladesh, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

Mannan said Bangladesh should be a trillion-dollar economy by 2041 or even earlier and the government has the ambition to establish a sustainable, civilised and scientifically-oriented modern society.

"Because of the hard-working people, our fortune has changed. But we are not



Mannan went on to assure the business community of the government's constant support so that they can leverage their strength to the hilt and help the country reach its full potential along the way.

"We are a business friendly government," he added.

Subramanian underscored the need to sustain Bangladesh's commendable growth momentum through cross-border collaboration, particularly through business-to-business e-commerce, or B2B.

"B2B is no longer considered the underdog of e-commerce. In fact, corporate customers prioritise suppliers and partners that allow them to trade online without first speaking with a sales representative."

By 2025, 80 percent of all B2B sales interactions between suppliers and professional buyers would occur online, he said, citing a study.

"So, none of us have the option to ignore the disruptive change that is taking place all around us."

To tap into the tremendous opportunities awaiting in the era of e-commerce, digitalisation, globalisation and sustainability, business leaders, entrepreneurs, industry experts and legislators must make a deliberate and concerted effort toward building the right environment for local businesses to thrive in a competitive world.

"As we know, countries that can implement regulatory reforms more quickly and create favourable policies that encourage cross-border trade will stand to gain the most," he added.

Behind the Bangladesh economy's spectacular figures of the past two decades are innovators, industrious working class, ingenious entrepreneurs

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IGP Benazir questions number of 'disappeared'

Speaks about US sanctions on him at NY City reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed has said the US alleged that 600 people were forcibly disappeared in Bangladesh since 2009, but no list of these people has been published anywhere.

Late last year, the US Treasury Department, referring to reports by NGOs, said in its website that "Rab and other Bangladesh law enforcement are responsible for more than 600 disappearances since 2009".

The US on December 10 last year imposed sanctions on Benazir and six other former and current Rab



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Sand traders have encroached upon the Turag river near Birulia bridge in Savar's Ashulia. The river is narrowing in the area significantly due to mushrooming of sand businesses. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

It's Tariqat, once again

Party's proposal reflected in EC's EVM decision

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARIYA

Bangladesh Tariqat Federation has become a curious case in the country's political landscape, which is now murky in the absence of effective opposition parties.

"What Tariqat proposes, happens" is the new buzzword in political circles. Quizzically though, the ruling Awami League, which mostly opposes opposition demands, was always found agreeing to Tariqat proposals.

In line with events over the last few years, the Election Commission's decision to use EVMs (electronic voting machines) marked the latest feat of Tariqat, an Islamic party of the country with only one MP in parliament.

Of the 39 registered political parties, 19 including Jatiya Party -- the main opposition in parliament -- and the BNP, have been opposing the use of EVMs in the next national elections.

At the EC's dialogue with political parties during July 17-31, only three parties -- the AL and its ally Samyabadi Dal and like-minded Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh -- demanded that the EVMs be used in the polls.

But Tariqat was very specific with its proposal: EVMs for 150 seats. And that is the decision the EC ended up taking.

Tariqat Federation hit the bullseye again. But was the arrow really shot in the dark?

The party is on a winning spree when it comes to suggesting something on a national issue and finding its

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