

PM'S INDIA VISIT

## Dhaka eyes fresh loans from Delhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

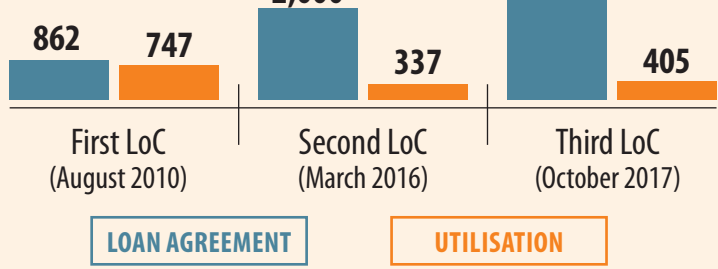
India may offer Bangladesh fresh loans under a new framework, as implementation of the projects under the existing loan programme is proving difficult due to some strict loan conditions.

### INDIAN LOAN UTILISATION

In millions of dollars

As of June 2023

SOURCE: ERD



The issue will be discussed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to India next week, a top finance ministry official said yesterday.

Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will have a one-on-one meeting followed by delegation-level talks on June 22 at the Hyderabad House, a state guest house, in New Delhi.

However, signing of any new loan agreement is unlikely during Hasina's visit, although an announcement to this effect may come in a joint communique, the official added requesting anonymity citing diplomatic confidentiality.

Over the last few months, Dhaka and New Delhi have been discussing a new loan framework and its amount and conditionalities, official sources say.

The discussion comes as Bangladesh faces challenges to utilise the existing conditional loans from India.

Since 2010, India committed \$7.36 billion in loan to Bangladesh. Of this, Bangladesh has been able to utilise only \$1.73 billion, or 23 percent of the commitment, till April this year.

The conditions of the existing Indian Line of Credit (LoC) are very strict. For example, around 65-75 percent of goods or services for each project must be procured from India, causing delay in project implementation, according to officials.

Appointment of Indian contractors along with bureaucratic red-tape on both sides also limits the project's progress.

Though Bangladesh signs project-based loan agreements with other development partners, in case of India, credit deals have been inked for a cluster of programmes under a framework.

This means, once a loan deal is signed, implementation period of all projects under that deal gets started. Also, as per the loan conditions, the

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Pilgrims pray at dawn on Saudi Arabia's Mount Arafat during the climax of the Hajj pilgrimage yesterday. Over 1.5 million Muslims prayed there in soaring temperatures.

PHOTO: AFP

### Benazir wrote to Boat Club from abroad

#### Confirm its two executive members

DIPAN NANDY

Former police chief Benazir Ahmed has recently written to Dhaka Boat Club, stating that he is out of the country and cannot serve as its president during his "temporary absence".

He sent an email on June 13 after a month of speculation that the former inspector general of police had left the country while the Anti-Corruption Commission

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## Major shakeup in BNP, 'seniors kept in dark'

### Tarique moves to take 'full control' of the party; 39 leaders given new positions

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

BNP reshuffled its central executive committee yesterday, a day after dissolving some city units over their failure to make the anti-government movement a success.

A total of 39 party leaders got new positions.

This sudden reshuffle has caused commotion within the party as acting chairman Tarique Rahman is restructuring the committees, keeping the senior leaders in the dark, BNP insiders said.

They said the issue was not discussed at the meetings of the standing committee, the party's highest policymaking body.

According to the party charter, the acting

chairperson will discharge all the duties of the chairperson in the absence of the latter.

And Tarique is now invoking that provision, said party sources.

The BNP charter gives the chairperson the authority to scrap any committee anytime, and the decision would be approved at the subsequent council.

The reshuffle brought younger leaders to important positions, while those with strong organisational abilities have been made advisers to the chairperson, BNP insiders said.

Some leaders who were selected for advisory roles believe they were assigned these positions as a form of punishment.

Apart from the executive body, BNP's

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## EID MUBARAK

The Daily Star wishes its valued readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a happy Eid

### HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star offices will remain closed for 3 days from today on account of Eid-ul-Azha. There will be no issue of the newspaper from June 17 to 19. However, we will be available online 24/7 during the holiday.



### 'Plot afoot to isolate govt from people'

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a vested quarter is still hatching conspiracies against the government to isolate it from the people.

Recalling the artificial famine in 1974, Hasina said Bangladesh had a bitter experience that year when

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Aching to go home to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with friends and family, several hundred people were waiting for a train at Dhaka Airport Railway Station yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### EID JOURNEY HOME

## Northbound people suffer

### Others have hassle-free trip

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

Tens of thousands left Dhaka to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their families, with those heading north complaining of a dearth of transport, overcharging by bus operators and long tailbacks.

However, those who were headed to the eastern, northeastern and southern parts of the country had a relatively hassle-free journey as no traffic congestion was reported from major highways linked to those areas.

Bus passengers yesterday said they had to pay Tk 100 to Tk 400 above the fare set by the government.

For instance, the bus fare from Dhaka to Dinajpur is usually Tk 800. But Sarower Hossain had to pay Tk 1,100 yesterday for a ticket on the Shah Fateh Ali Paribahan from Mohakhali bus terminal.

"When I asked why the price was higher, the bus staffer did not answer," Sarower said.

Similar scenes were seen at Sayedabad and Gabtoli bus terminals.

Mujibar Rahman shelled out Tk 1,000 to buy a ticket of Meghna Travels to go to Betagi of Barguna - Tk 350 more than normal. "I have no choice but to purchase this ticket as I have to go home for Eid," he said.

When the correspondent asked Mohammad Mintu, a staff of Meghna Travel at Sayedabad Bus Terminal, about overcharging, he said: "The bus will return to Dhaka empty, so we have to factor this in. That's why the extra fare is being charged."

Similarly, Rashed Rahman, a

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### KASHMIR SPEECH

## Arundhati to face trial under anti-terror law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's authorities have sanctioned the prosecution of award-winning author-activist Arundhati Roy and former professor at the Central University of Kashmir Showkat Hossain under a stringent anti-terror law for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event in New Delhi in 2010.



The sanction to try Roy, the author best known for her novel "The God of Small Things" which won the Booker Prize in 1997, and Hossain under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was granted by Delhi's Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday, officials in his office said.

Last October, Saxena had granted sanction to prosecute Roy and Hossain in the same case under section 196 of CrPC for commission of offences punishable under a milder law of Indian Penal Code:

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

**1st Death Anniversary of Arshad Waliur Rahman**

October 2, 1965 - June 16, 2023

It has been a year since you have passed away, and your sudden departure left us in deep grief. We hold you close in our thoughts and hearts, dearly missing your presence. We take solace in the beautiful memories you have left behind.

To everyone, you were known as Arshad Waliur Rahman, but to us, you were our beloved Reaz. Although you are no longer with us, yet your essence resides eternally within our hearts.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love and support. Please keep our beloved Arshad Waliur Rahman in your prayers. May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

**Shahnaz Rahman & Family**