



## Dhaka, Delhi eye shared prosperity

### Connectivity, defence figure high in Hasina-Modi talks; focus shifts to Teesta project from water sharing

#### STAR REPORT

Away from Teesta water sharing, over which Bangladesh and India have been in a deadlock for years, the two countries now focus on water conservation and management of the river inside Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi held a one-to-one meeting and a delegation-level meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday.

Briefing reporters after the meetings, Modi said India would send a technical team to Bangladesh to review the protection and management of the Teesta.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra then said a technical team has been formed to look into how Bangladesh can conserve Teesta water with Indian assistance.

Conservation of the Teesta requires technical management, Kwatra said, adding: "It is less about the water sharing part, but more about management of water flow within the Teesta river."

It is the understanding between the two leaders that a technical team would undertake efforts to make progress on this, he said.

Dhaka and Delhi almost signed a deal on sharing the Teesta water in 2011, but it did not happen due to West Bengal

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## Spectrum of ties widens

SHAHAB ENAM KHAN

The resounding applause in Delhi during Sheikh Hasina's visit to India was a testament to the vision and goals the two nations share.

In a world of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and power tilts, this visit and the bilateral talks underscored the necessity of pragmatic cooperation in the evolving fields of trade, technologies, infrastructure, and connectivity.

Strategically speaking, Delhi has understandably focused on sub-regionalism



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is greeted by her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi as she arrives at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY It's high time AL went into introspection

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League, one of the oldest and largest political parties in the country, is set to celebrate its 75th founding anniversary today.

It had been at the forefront of almost all democratic movements before and after the birth of Bangladesh. It also led the nation to independence.

On June 23, 1949, East Pakistan Awami Muslim League was founded by the likes of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Shamsul Haque and Ataur Rahman Khan. To make it more pluralistic and non-communal, the word "Muslim" was dropped from its name in 1955, and it was renamed Awami League.

The party played key roles in the Language Movement in 1952, Jukta Front election in 1954, anti-Ayub movement, Education Movement in 1962, Six-Point Movement in 1966, and the students' II-point movement



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## Bridge collapse kills nine of a wedding party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The journey to a wedding party ended in tragedy yesterday after the microbus carrying the bridal party plunged into a canal after an iron-made bridge collapsed, killing at least nine.

Three others were still missing at the time of going to print, according to the victims' family members.

The deceased are: Farida Begum, 55, her daughter-in-law Raiti, 30; Raiti's mother Rumi Begum, 40; their relative Munni Begum, 40; Munni's two daughters Tasfia, 11, and Tahiya, 7; their relatives Fatema Begum, 40; Zakia

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- India will start e-medical visa facility for Bangladeshis
- New assistant high commission of India to be set up in Rangpur
- Train service between Rajshahi and Kolkata
- Bus service between Chattogram and Kolkata
- Commencement of goods train services between Gede-Darshana and Haldibari-Chilahati upto Dalgaon
- Construction of an inland container depot in Sirajganj with grant
- Export of 40MW of power from Nepal to Bangladesh via Indian grid
- Joint technical committee for discussions on renewal of the Ganga water treaty
- Visit of a technical delegation for a project on conservation, management of Teesta

### NEW MoUs SIGNED

- Shared vision for India-Bangladesh digital partnership
- Shared vision for India-Bangladesh green partnership
- Military education on strategy and operations
- Cooperation in shared satellites
- Better railway connectivity between two countries
- Support in research in oceanography
- Cooperation in maritime and blue economy

### MoUs RENEWED

- Cooperation in healthcare and medicine
- Cooperation in disaster management, mitigation, and resilience building
- Cooperation in improving fisheries

## How Lucky got so lucky!

### Wealth, source of income of NBR official Matiur's wife don't add up

JAHIDUL ISLAM JOY and ZYMA ISLAM

Laila Kaniz Lucky is the upazila parishad chairman of Narsingdi's Raipura and a retired teacher of a government college.

It has now emerged that the former Bangla literature teacher has, in her name, a huge amount of properties, which do not match

Daily Star suggest that the highly-connected NBR official and his close and distant family members have great wealth, including significant stakes in various companies.

Matiur did not respond to this newspaper's calls, but denied any wrongdoing while talking to other media outlets.

Lucky's tax files submitted to the Election Commission before this

The much-talked-about, high-walled compound and two-storey bleached white mansion sits beside neighbours who live in small one-storey homes or huts made of corrugated tin sheets.

The Laila Kaniz Lucky Road, named after her, leads to her mansion.

Shamim Iqbal Munna, of Raipura's upazila engineering office,



### A GLIMPSE INTO LUCKY'S WEALTH

- Net wealth: Tk 10.31 cr
- Cash in hand/bank: Tk 3.56 cr
- Loan: Tk 2 cr
- Non-farmland: 7 acres worth Tk 5.16 cr
- Farmland: 1.5 acres (value not shown)
- Two luxury homes in Dhaka Narsingdi, multiple flats

with her known source of income, indicating someone may have used her wallet as a safe place to stash wealth.

Lucky is the wife of Dr Matiur Rahman, a member of the National Board of Revenue, who came under the spotlight after his son posted on social media a photo of a sacrificial goat that he claimed to have bought for Tk 12 lakh.

Matiur is now president of the NBR's Customs, Excise and VAT Appellate Tribunal, a grade-1 job, with a basic monthly salary of Tk 78,000.

Media reports, NBR sources and a number of documents seen by The

year's Narsingdi upazila pollsclaim she is worth Tk 10.31 crore, but a closer look indicates she may have understated her wealth by dozens of times.

According to her wealth statement, she owns more than eight acres of mostly non-agricultural land and five flats in Dhaka, but the combined value of all this was shown at only Tk 5.19 crore.

This innocuous-looking list does not even mention her palace-like home in Raipura upazila's Marjal village — an omission that raises eyebrows due to the opulence of the residence.

said that the 123-metre road was built in 2014 at a cost of Tk 14 lakh.

Multiple teachers at the nearby Md Bashir High School, all requesting anonymity, said the land acquisition for that road was done using the school fund, and not with Lucky's money. They said she used her influence to have the road named after her.

Lucky retired as an associate professor of Bangla at Government Titumir College in the capital four years ago, and according to her tax filings, she gets a pension of only Tk 4.65 lakh per year.

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মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের নেতৃত্বদানকারী বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের ঐতিহাসিক পথ পরিক্রমায় জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের আদর্শের উত্তরসূরী মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সভাপতি জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার অকুতোভয় ও সুযোগ্য নেতৃত্বে রপকল্প-২০৪৯ বাস্তবায়নের অগ্রপথিক হিসেবে গৌরবোজ্জ্বল ভূমিকার স্বাক্ষর

২৩শে জুন

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