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Japan to invest $6.35b, create 2 lakh jobs in 5yrs

Tarique, Takaichi agree to upgrade bilateral ties

- Japan to provide $300m for economic resilience, energy security
- Dhaka, Tokyo to upgrade BIG-B, Matarbari-Maheshkhali hub
- Dhaka requests for accession to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
- Agree to early operationalisation of third Terminal of HSIA, Dhaka Metro Rail lines

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan projects up to one trillion yen ($6.35 billion) in private investment in Bangladesh over the next five years, with the investment expected to create 2 lakh jobs.

The projection was welcomed by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi at their bilateral summit in Tokyo yesterday, according to a joint statement issued after the meeting. Dhaka and Tokyo agreed to deepen economic cooperation, strengthen supply chains, and expand strategic ties.

The two leaders also agreed to upgrade their flagship bilateral initiative, the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B), to "BIG-B for Shared Prosperity", with the aim of developing the Matarbari-Maheshkhali area into a major hub for logistics, energy, and industry centred on the Matarbari Deep Sea Port.

The two countries also shared a vision of developing resilient supply chains in manufacturing, food and agriculture, information and communication technology, and pharmaceuticals.

According to Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, the two countries signed

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Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi welcomes her Bangladesh counterpart Tarique Rahman at the Prime Minister's Office (Kantei) in Tokyo yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Good start, but delivery will make the difference

TANIM AHMED

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to a G7 country within eight months of his taking power should in itself be seen as a positive and major step. Continuation of the traditional bilateral relations with the Asian giant is both desirable and beneficial for Bangladesh, especially in these challenging times.

While the joint statement of the two prime ministers highlights cooperation in infrastructure, energy, human resource, trade, and investment under a 'strategic partnership', it dampens hope for a visible elevation of bilateral relations with new terminology or for more robust budgetary support.

There are a few promises of loans, along with the commitments for three substantial projects: Dhaka airport's third terminal, another MRT line in Dhaka, and the Matarbari port, which is part of an old initiative.

Envisioned as the centrepiece of Japan and Bangladesh's cooperation, the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt, BIG-B for Shared Prosperity as it will now be called, is an 'update' of an older project that had begun in 2014.

In its new form, this initiative includes the Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) that will lead towards a bustling regional hub, a node of international maritime traffic connecting South Asia and countries further west with South East Asia and the far east.

Although mentioned as an exclusive project, the Japan-Bangladesh project, observers say that the BIG-B is meant to be a 'logistical hub' for the region, which may include other countries of the region too.

ANALYSIS

The country representative of Japan External Trade Organization Kazuiki Kataoka, who is also the president of the Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, also thought Matarbari was envisioned as a crucial regional node. "It can become a logistical hub between South Asia and East Asia, connecting not just the seven sisters [eastern provinces of India] but also Nepal and Bhutan."

Taken together with the Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the joint statement suggests that

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Another round of LPG price hike likely

Industry charges being reviewed despite failure to enforce rates

ASIFUR RAHMAN

LPG consumers can brace for another round of price hike as the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) kickstarts a process for revising the rates and charges tomorrow.



The commission will hold a public hearing, its first since introducing the monthly LPG price-fixing mechanism in April 2021.

The hearing, which comes after industry players asked for increasing their charges, is taking place at a time

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Govt distances itself from IGP's comments

PHQ, police association defend him; Zahed says PM to decide IGP's fate

> **"The government is firmly opposed to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and custodial deaths."**
>
> Home Minister **Salahuddin Ahmed**

TASNEEM TAYEB

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ali Hossain Fakir's remarks do not reflect the government's position.

"The government is firmly opposed to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and custodial deaths," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Noting that the July uprising, which led to the fall of the Awami League regime, was aimed at establishing the rule of law, the minister said upholding that principle remained one of the government's key commitments to the people.

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JCD LEADER KILLING

Natore-4 MP's son on 3-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Nooruzzaman, son of Natore-4 BNP lawmaker Abdul Aziz, has been placed on a three-day remand in a case filed over the killing of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Shakil Islam.

District Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court passed the order yesterday afternoon after police sought 10 days to interrogate Nooruzzaman, showing him arrested in the case.

Nooruzzaman was taken into police custody late Monday and first brought to Gurudaspur Police Station before being transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) office in Natore town. DB officials questioned him until yesterday afternoon before producing him before the court.

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Police map teen gangs; legal action remains tricky

SHARIFUL ISLAM *and* **TOUSIF KAIUM**



Police are preparing coordinated drives against teen gangs and their patrons but face a tougher task beyond identifying and detaining suspects: taking action without specific allegations.

Amid growing concerns over juvenile involvement in organised violence, extortion, drug dealing, and other crimes, Police Headquarters (PHQ) has directed all police units to identify active gangs, their members, and influential people who allegedly organise, finance or protect them.

"We issued a directive to all police units across the country eight to 10 days ago and expect to receive the lists shortly," Md Sayedur Rahman, additional inspector general (Crimes and Operations) at the PHQ, told The Daily Star on October 17.

Police will hold meetings after receiving the lists and draw up a detailed plan for coordinated drives in areas where juvenile delinquency is prevalent, he said.

Asked yesterday what action would be taken against those with no criminal records, Sayedur said they would not be included in the list.

"The action will target those who threaten public safety and violate the laws of the state," he added.

The directive covers all units, including the Special Branch, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Special Response Battalion (SRB), formerly the Rapid Action Battalion, and district police.

An SRB official said the force had completed preliminary mapping of 1,333 juvenile groups, 213 organisers or leaders, and 27 alleged patrons.

The lists were undergoing final departmental verification before submission to the PHQ.

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اَلَّذِیْ خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَیٰوةَ لِیَبْلُوَكُمْ اَیُّكُمْ اَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ؕ وَهُوَ الْعَزِیْزُ الْغَفُوْرُ

He is the One who created life and death in order to test which of you is best in deeds.
And He is the Almighty, All-Forgiving. (Surah Mulk, Verse 2)



Mir Mustafizur Rahman
(Jan 7, 1935 - Oct 28, 2021)

Five years ago, today, on Thursday, October 28, 2021, M. Mustafizur Rahman, a renowned CSP, passed away at his residence in Gulshan, Dhaka. He was 86 years old.

He was born in a respectable Muslim family in 1935 at Fakirbari, Barisal. He completed his B. A. and M. A. in Economics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and another M. A. in Development Economics from Williams College, Massachusetts, USA.

Mr. Rahman qualified in the Civil Service examination in 1959, and served the Government as Finance Secretary; President's Principal Secretary; Alternate Executive Director of World Bank, and the first Executive Chairman, Board of Investment, Government of Bangladesh. He was the Chairman of the Revenue Reform Commission (2003) and Chairman of the 7th Pay Commission (2009) appointed by the Government. He was also Chairman, Water Development Board; Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism; Information and Broadcasting; and Education.

On retirement from Government service, Mr. Rahman involved himself in the development of life insurance, leasing, credit rating agency and private university in this country.

Seeking prayers for the departed soul, are:

Prof Salma Rahman, *(Retired Professor of English, former Director, Secondary Education and Project Director, Female Secondary Education Stipend Project)*

Nahid, Runa, Saadia, Mahfuz, Kamran, Murad, Shaheen and Grandchildren & Brothers, Sisters.