

Staff Reporter

The third meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) between Bangladesh and India is likely to be held in New Delhi in September, aiming to review the status of relations between the two neighboring countries.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will lead their respective sides to the meeting.

Both the countries have started preparations for the meeting as an inter-ministerial meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry here on Tuesday to that end.

The meeting reviewed the progress over the decisions taken before apart from discussing two pending issues -- Teesta water sharing deal and ratification of Land Boundary Agreement with the neighboring country.

"So far I know the date for the JCC is not fixed yet. It'll be held at a mutually convenient time," an official at the Foreign Ministry said.

He, however, said a suitable date -- between September 15 and 20 -- is being considered. The official also said Bangladesh earlier proposed two dates -- one in August and another in September -- for the JCC.

During her visit to Dhaka, Sushma Swaraj informed that both the countries agreed to hold the next meeting of the JCC in Delhi and invited her Bangladesh counterpart expecting that the initiatives would help Bangladesh-India break fresh ground in their relationship.

The second JCC was held in Dhaka on February 16, 2013 and two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the significant forward movement in implementation of the decisions taken by the two sides, including during the first JCC meeting. The Bangladesh delegation was led by then Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, while the Indian delegation was led by former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid.

Though there has been no date yet regarding top-level visit between the two countries, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are likely to meet each other in three separate forums -- UN General Assembly, 10th summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and Saarc Summit.