

Radcliffe Award

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this but they haven't had much success", said Arun Kumar Chattopadhyaya, a vice-chairman of the national council of the Forward Student Bloc, during a recent visit to Dhaka.

According to Chattopadhyaya, the Forward Bloc, which is the dominant political party in the Kuchlibari-Mekhliganj area where Tin Bigha is situated, objected to the original agreement because "it would have made Kuchlibari with its 50,000 people into an enclave and taken away Indian sovereignty from over the leased area."

The final agreement, based on the 1982 accord signed by A R Shams-ud-Doha and Narasimha Rao, the then foreign ministers of Bangladesh and India respectively, leaves the Tin Bigha corridor under Indian legal jurisdiction and sovereignty.

The corridor is designed to establish a road link between Panbari mouza in Lalmonirhat district and the enclaves of Angorpota and Dahagram.

The dispute is a relatively new one, arising out of protests by Indian nationals to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement signed by Prime Ministers Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi.

However, the chain of events leading to today's lease implementation, began long before Bangladesh gained independence. Here's a quick glance through history:

It all began with Sir Cyril Radcliffe, the lawyer employed by the last viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten to prepare a partition plan way, back in 1947.

According to the Radcliffe Award, announced August 12 1947, Jalpaiguri thana of West Bengal was to be a part of India.

But, Berubari Union No 12, which was part of Jalpaiguri became a subject of dispute between the two newly-independent countries—India and Pakistan, calling in their prime ministers to settle the score in 1950.

Later, top bureaucrats of the two countries met in New Delhi to talk, among other boundary disputes, Berubari and divided the seven-square-mile area into two parts.

"This (Berubari Union No 12 with 22.58 sq km area) will be so divided as to give half the area to Pakistan, the other half adjacent to India being retained by India," they agreed.

The 1958 accord also agreed to redraw the Radcliffe line giving two other enclaves—Dahagram and Angarpota—to India.

However, legal and constitutional debate that followed stalled the implementation of the agreement, sending the matter to the Supreme Court of India in 1959.

The crux of the question was whether the transfer of South Berubari to Pakistan would amount to 'cession' of territory.

The Indian SC held that the agreement amounted to cession of a part of Indian territory in favour of Pakistan and that its implementation would require amendment to the Article 1 of the Indian constitution and passing of another law.

Accordingly, in 1960, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution Act (Ninth Amendment), providing for the transfer.

Yet, the matter did not move as inhabitants of Berubari

again took it to courts.

In 1971, it was again in the Supreme Court which gave verdict against some Berubari people's demand for compensation.

After Bangladesh won freedom, some rethinking was necessary about the 1958 agreement.

According to 1967 data, 90 per cent of the population of South Berubari and four Coochbehar enclaves to be given to Bangladesh were Hindu, while 80 per cent of Dahagram and Angorpota were Muslim. Both sides felt such an exchange would result in mass migration from both parts.

The two countries therefore agreed that India would retain Berubari and Bangladesh would continue to possess Dahagram and Angorpota.

As part of the package, "a strip of land would be leased in perpetuity by India to Bangladesh, giving her access to Dahagram and Angorpota in order to enable her to exercise sovereignty on these two enclaves", according to Indian Foreign Ministry documents.

Thus Tinbigha came into the picture, and Bangabandhu accepted the deal and signed the Land Boundary Agreement on May 16, 1974.

Based on the 1974 agreement, the Foreign Minister of the two countries reached 'understanding' in October 1982 that the lease in perpetuity of the corridor "shall be for the purpose of connecting the two enclaves with the mainland" to enable the Bangladesh Government to exercise her sovereignty over Dahagram and Angarpota.

The "Exchange of Letter on Tinbigha" said that "sovereignty over the leased area shall continue to vest in India" but "Bangladesh shall have undisturbed possession and use of the area".

The 1982 document states: "Bangladesh citizens including police, paramilitary and military personnel along with their arms, ammunition, equipment and supplies shall have the right of free and unfettered movement in the leased area and shall not be required to carry passports or travel documents of any kind. Movement of Bangladesh goods through the leased area shall also be free. There shall be no requirement of payment of customs duty, tax or levy of any kind whatsoever or any transit charges."

The Letter on Tinbigha signed by the then External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao, now India's Prime Minister, stipulated that "Indian citizens including police, paramilitary and military personnel along with their arms, ammunition, equipment and supplies shall continue to have the right of free and unfettered movement in the leased area in either direction."

Agreed minutes with Riyadh signed

An agreed minutes was signed here yesterday between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia after the end of the three-day session of Bangladesh-Saudi joint commission, reports BSS.

Secretary of the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and leader of the visiting 13-member Saudi economic delegation and Deputy Minister for Finance and National Economy of the Kingdom Dr Jabarah Al-Sarisari signed the agreed minutes.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the installation ceremony of Bangladesh Medical Association at the Engineers' Institution auditorium yesterday. —PID photo

PM: 3000 docs

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out that there was dearth of physicians in the country compared to the size of population. Under such circumstances the unemployment problem of physicians was very inconsistent and it proves that there was wastage of merit in different sectors, she said adding "we want to stop this wastage."

Begum Zia said about 500 physicians in addition to 250 would get appointment very soon.

She said in private sector 1000 drug licenses had been given among the physicians in thana level. The number of drug licenses would be increased, if necessary, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government had decided to set up five more medical colleges and hospitals in the country which would provide job opportunities to 600 physicians.

Begum Zia said the government would give appointment on ad-hoc basis to the physicians who were working on current charges. She said all possible assistance would be extended to complete the construction of BMA Bhaban. The demand for increasing the age limit for physicians to 33 would be reviewed as it was a new demand put to the government, she said.

Boy kidnapped for ransom killed

By DMCH Correspondent

Kidnappers killed a school boy at Kabirpur, Savar, Wednesday as the ransom for his release was not paid.

The victim, Shahinur Islam, a student of class seven of Kabirpur Anjana Model High School, was kidnapped last Monday night. The kidnappers sent a letter to the victim's parents Tuesday morning demanding Taka 2,20,000 as ransom.

The body of Shahinur Islam was found floating in the river Dhantara at Savar Wednesday afternoon.

Savar police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy Thursday. Police also arrested one Moazzem in this connection.

Shahinur was the fifth of the five sons and as many daughters of Joinal Bepari.

Opposition

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sition in a parliamentary democracy to press its demands.

The opposition leaders in this respect recalled a three-week opposition boycott of Parliament sessions in the country in 1979 protesting placement of the Disturbed Area Bill by the Treasury Bench.

Although in power, the BNP leader did not raise the question of betrayal of the opposition to their voters that time, the Opposition leaders recollected last evening.

On the question of the four-point opposition demand the leaders said that it was not only the demand of the opposition in Parliament, the people of the country had clearly expressed their solidarity with the demand by observing a dawn-to-dusk nationwide hartal on June 21.

The four-point opposition demand includes the trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam under the International Crimes Act, 1973, withdrawal of cases against 24 persons associated with the 'Gono Adalat' which tried Golam Azam in March, ensuring due honour to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and assurance of democratic behaviour to the opposition parties.

The opposition leaders said that the whole nation was united for the trial of Golam Azam as a war criminal. But the Prime Minister and Leader of the House was giving concessions to the Jamaat chief and thus betraying the spirit of the War of Independence.

They also said that the opposition was willing to join the budget session but the Prime Minister was obstructing the path by showing her obstinacy in meeting their demand.

Tinbigha

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after today's meeting, the Lalmonirhat DC said, "the stage is set for the formal lease-out."

He ruled out the possibility of any last-moment problem during the ceremony saying "I don't foresee any such thing and necessary measures have already been taken."

"They (the Indian side) have not any possibilities either," he added. After the inauguration at 11 am, the corridor will remain open for use by Bangladeshi citizens for one hour as per the agreement and the DC will lead his team back to the mainland during the next alternative hours.

From Saturday (June 27) the Bangladesh nationals would be allowed to use the narrow strip only thrice a day—for one hour from 700-800 hours (IST), from 1300-1400 hours (IST) and from 1700-1800 hours (IST).

On the 22nd of the next month, said the DC, "will evaluate the arrangement."

A 150 meter by five meter road has already been constructed by the Indian authorities as per the agreement, said a Lalmonirhat district official who accompanied the DC quoting the Coochbehar magistrate. The strip would be used by nationals of the two countries in a railway traffic system.

However, some dwellers of the two enclaves while talking to The Daily Star expressed their dissatisfaction over such arrangement. They declined to be identified.

PTI from Calcutta adds: A division bench of the Calcutta High Court today dismissed the appeal filed by Monomohan Roy, president of the Kuchlibari Sangram Committee, against the order of Mrs Justice Ruma Pal of the Calcutta High Court and affirmed her judgment.

(Editorial on Page 4)

Flood serious in Chittagong

COX'S BAZAR, June 25:

Flash flood in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong districts took a serious turn as river Matamuhuri swelled with incessant downpour over the last four days kept flowing above danger level, reports UNB.

Outsider killed

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of the Awami League backed Chhatra League (M-I) last night from the SM Hall of the university.

Zahurul Huq Hall is the stronghold of Mantu group of BCL.



Meanwhile, BCL(M) sources claimed the incident was the result of the internal conflict of the Mantu backed "third world" group.

Saifur

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what action the government had taken against the BB. Saifur replied that action was being taken.

The statement apparently agitated Treasury Bencher Akhtaruzzaman and he rose to say that the Finance Minister was blaming the people for depositing money with the BCL but did not take action against the BB for lapses.

Further contesting the statement of the Minister, Akhtaruzzaman said that the BCL had permission for financial transactions and "if given time I could produce documents in support of my claim in the House."

To his reply Saifur said he had given the correct answer. Akhtaruzzaman again stood up and said "the statement by the Minister was not correct" and he threw a challenge to the Minister.

At this stage the Speaker intervening again said that the matter was undoubtedly important and requested Akhtaruzzaman to serve notice for further clarification of the matter. Immediately after, Saifur Rahman left the House.

Hijackers rob 2 housewives

By Staff Correspondent

Two housewives were robbed of cash and gold ornaments worth Taka 82 thousand at Green Road and Uttara areas in the city Thursday.

Hijackers at Green Road stabbed a housewife, Farida Zaman, and robbed of Taka 50,000 in cash while she was returning home from the Green Road branch of Agrani Bank at around 10.30 am yesterday.

Two of the hijackers, Shaheed and Rafiqul Islam were caught by the passers by and handed over to police.

Another housewife, Mahmuda Idris, was robbed of gold ornaments worth about Taka 32,000 at Uttara Sector-7 at around noon Thursday.

Two young men on a motorbike halted her rickshaw and hijacked the gold ornaments on gunpoint. A case was registered with Uttara police but no arrest was made.

3 killed, 7 hurt falling from train roof

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, June 25: Three roof top travellers died and seven others were injured when they fell off running trains in the last two days at the Tongi railway station. Two

The dead are Md Selim Bhuyan, 25, Md Mokhles, 28 and Siddiqur Rahman, 45.

The Midnight File

Sindh minister arrested

KARACHI, June 25: Saeed Baqri, a minister in southern Pakistan's Sindh provincial government, has been arrested with more than 40 other members of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) Party, officials said here today. Baqri and the founding father of the MQM, Altaf Hussain, along with others have been implicated by local residents in cases of murder, kidnapping for ransom and torture, reports AFP.

Ashrawi says no to Labour Party offer

AMMAN, June 25: Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi today dismissed an offer by the Labour Party, which won Tuesday's legislative elections for a partial freeze of settlements in the occupied territories. We demand a halt to all settlements, everywhere, because they are illegal and violate Palestinian rights as well as the principles of the peace process, Ashrawi told AFP.

Sick industries Cotton, textile workers' action plan

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tries, immediate measures by the government to rehabilitate the sick industries and postponement of the cases filed against the entrepreneurs unless the report of the body on sick industries is finalised.

The council identified a number of causes behind the sicknesses of the industries

The causes mentioned by the council include, illogical interest rate on bank loans, lack of working capital, dishonesty of the officials of the banks and financing institutions, contradictory policy of the government on the local industries, political instability, smuggling and natural disasters.

Are you aware of the recent relaxations of Exchange Control Regulations?

- * While returning from abroad, persons resident in Bangladesh can bring in US \$ 2,500.00 without filing declaration to the customs authorities. They can open foreign currency account in a bank and deposit this money there or can keep it with them if they so wish. They can take this money out while going abroad again.
 - * They can bring in any amount in foreign exchange without limit after declaring the same with the custom authorities. They can deposit the fund in a foreign currency account in a bank and also earn interest if they open fixed deposit account.
 - * For further details please contact any bank dealing in foreign exchange.
 - * They can also bring with them gold upto one Kg. on payment of duties of 7.5%.
 - * Non-resident Bangladeshis maintaining F/C account and NFCD account in Bangladesh can retain this account for five years after they come back home.
 - * Persons resident abroad can now bring in upto US \$ 5,000.00 with them without filing declaration with custom authorities and take back the unspent amount while returning abroad.
 - * They can bring in any amount in foreign currency without limit after filing declaration with custom authorities and take back the unspent amount while going back.
- ### Foreign Investment made easier
- * Foreign firms and companies operating in Bangladesh do not require prior approval of Bangladesh Bank for remittance of profits to their head office.
 - * Prior approval of Bangladesh Bank is no longer needed for issuance of shares to non-residents in respect of investments for setting up industries in Bangladesh.
 - * Prior permission of Bangladesh Bank is not required for remittance of dividend on such shares to the non-resident investors.
 - * Non-residents including foreign enterprises can invest in shares and securities through Dhaka Stock Exchange without prior approval from Bangladesh Bank.
 - * For details regarding investment in shares and securities, remittance of profits and dividends, please get in touch with any bank dealing in foreign exchange.
 - * Please also note that residents who bring in their earnings abroad through normal banking channel and invest in new industries, stocks, shares or government bonds or use such funds for purchasing industries sold in auction by state owned financial institutions are exempted from payment of income tax on such investments.
- ### More incentives to exporters
- * Annual foreign exchange retention quota of exporters in general has been enhanced from 2%-2.5% to 10% of their FOB export earnings.
 - * However, for exports of POL products including naphtha, furnace oil and bitumen, readymade garments and electronic goods where import content is relatively high the quota will be 5% of FOB earnings.
 - * Exporters will keep their foreign exchange quota in a foreign currency account in US dollar or pound sterling in a bank dealing in foreign exchange.
 - * On realisation of export proceeds in foreign exchange the bank concerned will credit the exporter's quota to his foreign currency account.
 - * The balances in the foreign currency accounts can be used by the exporters for bonafide business purposes only such as business visits abroad, participation in export fairs and seminars, import of raw materials, machineries and spares etc. However, no amount from such foreign currency accounts can be used for investment abroad.
 - * Exporters are free to keep their quota in interest-bearing renewable term deposit accounts in US dollar or pound sterling.
 - * Please also note that for all export items, requirement of obtaining prior permission of Bangladesh Bank for opening back-to-back L/Cs has been waived as long as such exports conform to guidelines for domestic value addition.
- ### Investment Climate improved
- * Banks may open letters of credit without prior clearance of Bangladesh Bank against suppliers credit and other foreign borrowings contracted in the private sector in accordance with prescribed criteria of Board of Investment, subject to a maximum effective rate of interest of LIBOR + 4% and a repayment period of not less than seven years.
 - * Repayment of principal and payment of interest in respect of such loans will not also require prior permission of Bangladesh Bank.
 - * Prior permission of Bangladesh Bank will also not be required by the banks for remittance of technical fees and royalties, if they conform to Board of Investment guidelines.
 - * Banks may extend term loans on normal banking considerations to foreign firms operating in Bangladesh without prior approval of Bangladesh Bank.
 - * Banks may remit savings of expatriate personnel at the time of their leaving Bangladesh without prior approval of Bangladesh Bank so long as the salary benefits are clearly stated in the employment contract approved by Board of Investment.
 - * Banks may remit without prior approval of Bangladesh Bank dividends and capital gains of foreign investors on shares and securities purchased through the Dhaka Stock Exchange after withholding the tax payable, if any.



Bangladesh Bank

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