

Dhaka, Delhi agree to erect 320 pillars

JS body told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry yesterday said Bangladesh and India had agreed to erect as many as 320 pillars on their border.

It also said there is no more dispute with Myanmar, another neighbouring country, over the demarcation of land boundary as both the countries had agreed to set up a total of 314 pillars on the border.

The parliamentary watchdog asked Bangladesh Survey Department to play a major role in identifying land boundary with India, as its work is more scientific and will be more acceptable to the largest neighbouring country.

About armed forces officials deprived and sacked on political ground during the tenure of the past BNP-led four-party alliance and caretaker government, it said, the defence ministry and the review committee are evaluating the applications of officials.

The parliamentary body asked the respective authorities to designate the responsibility of demarcating land boundary with India to Bangladesh

Survey Department," M Idris Ali, chairman of the standing committee told reporters after the meeting at the parliament building complex.

The survey department had a major role in demarcating land boundary successfully with Myanmar," Idris Ali, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker said.

It should also be engaged in resolving dispute over demarcation of land boundary with India," added Idris Ali, a former bureaucrat-turned politician.

The committee also discussed installation of numerical weather forecasting (NWF), which is very modern and a sophisticated system of weather forecast.

Replies to a question, the committee chief said, they have so far received over 100 applications from the armed forces officials who were allegedly deprived or sacked on political grounds during the past BNP and caretaker government.

"We have sent those applications to defence ministry and respective committees are evaluating them," he said, adding that the defence ministry will submit a report to the standing committee after completion of its task.

'Working mothers' children unfit'

BBC ONLINE

Children whose mothers work are less likely to lead healthy lives than those with "stay at home" mothers, a study says.

The Institute of Child Health study of more than 12,500 five-year-olds found those with working mothers less active and more likely to eat unhealthy food.

Other experts said more work was needed to see if the results applied to other age groups.

The study is in the Journal of Epidemiology and Child Health.

About 60% of mothers with children aged up to five are estimated to be in work.

Results

The mothers were asked about the hours they worked and their children's diet, exercise levels and sedentary activities.

A third of the mothers had not worked since the birth of their child, but the mothers who were employed were spending an average of 21 hours a week at work.

They took into account factors likely to influence the results, such as the mothers' level of education and socio-economic circumstances.

They found that five-year-olds whose mothers worked part-time or full-time were more likely to primarily consume sweetened drinks between meals.

They used their computers or watched television for at least two hours a day compared to the children of "stay at home" mothers who spent less than two hours on these activities.

They were also more likely to be driven to school compared to the children of "stay at home" mothers who tended to walk or cycle.

The children whose mothers had a flexible working pattern did have healthier lifestyles but when other factors were taken into account the researchers said there was little evidence that these children behaved more healthily.

Time constraints'

Professor Catherine Law, who led the study, said they had not looked at fathers in this study because fathers' employment levels had not changed whereas the numbers of working mothers had increased dramatically.

She said: "For many families the only parent or both parents will be working."

"Time constraints may limit parents' capacity to provide their children with healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity."

"Our results do not imply that mothers should not work."

"Rather they highlight the need for policies and programmes to help support parents."

The same children took part in an earlier study by the Institute of Child Health (ICH) which found that those with working mothers were more likely to be obese or overweight by the age of three.

In the latest study, many of the five-year-olds were engaging in health behaviours likely to promote excess weight gain: 37% were mainly eating crisps and sweets between meals, 42% were consuming sweetened drinks and 61% used the television or a computer at least two hours daily.

LOW IN THE BAY 155 tourists stranded in St Martin's Island 1500 returned half way

A CORRESPONDENT, C Bazar

At least 1,500 tourists returned to Teknaf from half way to St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar yesterday due to the low over the Bay, while a total of 155 tourists remained stranded in the island.

The low over the west-central and adjoining northwest Bay intensified into a well marked low yesterday which is likely to intensify further, said a Met Office warning.

It also warned squally weather might affect the maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla which were advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers were advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice. Sources concerned said the

two ships LCT Kutubdia and Keari Sindbad carrying about 1500 tourists, left Teknaf for St Martin's Island around 9:00am yesterday. But they compelled to return after one hour sailing being caught in furious waves at Badar Mokam.

The passengers alleged the ships yesterday carried several times more passengers than their capacity.

Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer AMM Nazim Uddin on September 27 fined LCT Kutubdia and Keari Sindbad Tk 20,000 and Tk 10,000 respectively for carrying excess passengers.

Acting chairman of St Martin's Island union Noor Mohammad said the 155 stranded tourists are staying in 30 hotels of the island as there is no alternative to return to Teknaf.

Fanafillah said former adviser Matin will also be questioned before completing the investigation.

He is to submit report within 30 days.



The appalling condition of probably the busiest and most important Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in the country. The photo was taken between Jatrabari and Kajla.

Polanski asks Swiss court to free him

AP, Zurich

Lawyers for Roman Polanski filed a motion in court yesterday asking that the Oscar-winning director be released from Swiss custody—the first step in his legal battle to avoid extradition to the United States for a 1977 statutory rape case.

The Swiss Federal Criminal Court announced the filing and said "the decision will be made within the next weeks."

Legal experts predicted the 76-year-old filmmaker will not be freed anytime soon from the prison in Zurich, for he is expected to stay incarcerated through the verdict and through any appeal from either side. Then, in a separate legal operation, he must contest an expected US extradition request that has not yet been received by the Swiss.

The criminal court will decide on the legality of the American request for Polanski's apprehension, Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman Guido Balmer told The Associated Press. The Justice Ministry and Polanski could later seek to overturn any decision at Switzerland's highest court, the Federal Tribunal.

"We will examine the ruling and then decide what we will do," Balmer said, refusing to speculate on how long Polanski would remain in jail.

While the director's lawyers were hoping he could get out on

Nero's dining room unveiled in Rome

AP, Rome

Archaeologists say they have unveiled what they believe to be remains of the "dining room" of the Roman emperor Nero, part of his palatial residence built in the first century.

Lead archaeologist Francoise Villedieu says her team discovered part of a circular room, which experts believe rotated day and night to imitate the Earth's movement and impress guests.

Villedieu told journalists yesterday that the room on the ancient Palatine Hill was supported by a pillar with a diameter of 4 metres (more than 13 feet). She says only the foundation of the room was recovered during the four-month excavation.

The Golden Palace, also known by its Latin name Domus Aurea, rose over the ruins of a fire that destroyed much of Rome in 64 AD and was completed in 68 AD.



Dear ones lament after Swechchhasebok League leader Goutam Sarker, inset, of DCC Ward-79 was killed in the wee hours yesterday during a clash between two groups of Hindu devotees at Shyampur over occupation of land.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

AL came to power thru' rigging

FROM PAGE 1

programmes and launching movement for protecting the country's interests.

"Remain ready to join the BNP movement," Khaleda told her audience during her Sirajganj trip on a relief mission yesterday.

"The Fakhruddin regime wanted to depoliticise the country, but they failed as people did not accept it."

About the new parliament, the BNP chief deplored that the BNP was heading the ministry during the past caretaker government regime.

ACC Deputy Director Sheikh Mohammad Fanafillah who is heading the team set up a temporary office at the port office.

The team yesterday questioned Port Chairman Commodore R U Ahmed, Captain Zubayer Ahmed, Terminal Manager Mashirul Rahaman Beg, Asst Manager Golam Sarwar and Asst Traffic Manager Omar Faruq.

Earlier the ACC team visited Chittagong Container Terminal and inspected files and documents.

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following "the blueprint of Fakhruddin's regime, which also made commitments to the foreign powers against national interests."

"The Fakhruddin regime wanted to depoliticise the country, but they failed as people did not accept it."

The opposition leader made the remarks and warnings while distributing relief to poor men, women and children who could not celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr for passing days in hardship due to river erosion at Hard Point of Jamuna town-protection embankment.

The programme eventually turned into a big public gathering as she went on handing out rice, sugar, vermicelli, sardines and lungis to the destitute.

Addressing the gathering, she said the present government, instead of implementing election pledges, is busy implementing its "commitments given to foreign powers" before the polls.

In this regard, she criticised government move to sign various "anti-national" agreements besides such other activities.

She cited the army pullout from Chittagong Hill Tracts. As a result, she feared, the region will be out of hand of Bangladesh.

Khaleda further alleged that the government wants to give corridor to India in the name of Asian Highway.

She said BNP also wants Bangladesh to link with the Asian Highway, but "not sacrificing the country's interests."

The former prime minister criticised this government's move towards forming taskforce in a bid to "hand over country's resources to foreign powers."

She said during the Fakhruddin regime, the prices of rice were Tk 40 per kg and many people remained unfed, some committed suicide and some were forced to sell their children for want of food.

The BNP chief said the AL government had not implemented a single commitment in the last nine months as the party had pledged to feed people with rice at Tk 10 per kg and green chillies at Tk 5 kg besides free distribution of fertiliser.

"Rather ruling-party activists remained busy looting, grabbing land, home and shop, violating the chastity of mothers and sisters across the country," she said.

She claimed prices of essential items have gone out of reach of people, which crossed the price indices of Fakhruddin's crowd.

She told the gathering that BNP always remained beside the people, still remains beside them and would never accept it in the future.

"The ruling party is doing whatever necessary to release Bangladesh to a dysfunctional state," Khaleda said.

She said the government has been partisan everywhere and mentioned that efficient officers at the Secretariat are being made OSD while "pro-AL" inept government officials are being awarded with promotions twice and thrice."

As a result, no work is going on in the country, she lamented.

Referring to what she called misrule and misdeeds of the last caretaker government, she said all sections of people, including politicians and businessmen, were repressed by the Fakhruddin government, which also handed the country to masslessness.

She said during the Fakhruddin regime, the prices of rice were Tk 40 per kg and many people remained unfed, some committed suicide and some were forced to sell their children for want of food.

Some destitute women also spoke at the meeting, narrating their miseries, as they could not celebrate the Eid. Rather they had no food to eat on the day and could not buy their children Eid dresses.

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NYC terrorism suspect awaits arraignment

AP, New York

An Afghan immigrant accused of plotting to turn common chemicals into explosives that could have targeted New York City was due in federal court yesterday, a day after authorities confirmed that they know the identities of three believed to have been in on the scheme.

"In most cases the imprisoned person has to remain in detention for the whole process," explained Peter Cosandey, another former Zurich prosecutor.

"The chances that he will be exempted from prison are rather small," he added, because Polanski wasn't a Swiss citizen or a permanent resident and had already jumped bail years ago in the United States.