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Dhaka, Yangon narrow gap on sea boundary

Agree on demarcation following both equidistance and equity of resources; next talks in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh and Myanmar yesterday decided to demarcate the maritime boundary of the two countries, accommodating the demands of both equidistance and equity of resources as the guiding principles.

The decision came at a two-day high-level meeting that ended yesterday afternoon at a hotel in Chittagong.

The meeting also decided to hold another round of talks by next April in Myanmar.

Additional Foreign Secretary of UN Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) Rear Admiral (ret) Md Khurshed Alam, who led Bangladesh side at the meeting,

told reporters that the talk was fruitful.

He said a technical team under his leadership has already been working on demarcation of the maritime boundary.

Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Phae Thann Oo, who was also present at the meeting, said, "We are very happy with the fruitful discussion. It was a very good discussion. It will continue."

During Friday's talk, Bangladesh and Myanmar both placed their proposals on demarcation, opening the discussion on a positive note to resolve the dispute over the natural gas and mineral-rich zone of the Bay of Bengal.

Bangladesh proposed fixing the maritime boundary following the principle of equity of the resources while Myanmar

recommended line-based equidistance system for demarcating maritime boundary.

As per a UN charter, the principle of equity takes into account a country's population, economic status and needs, GDP growth and other humane issues for demarcating maritime boundary. In contrast, the equidistance system marks the boundary through geometric calculations.

If the principle of equity is applied, Bangladesh may get a bigger maritime area than Myanmar wants Bangladesh to have.

"The positive outcome of this meeting is that for the first time Myanmar has, in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Bangabandhu's homecoming day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrates today the historic homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu, the Founding Father of Bangladesh, returned to an independent country after nine and a half months confinement in the jail of the then West Pakistan during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Pakistani occupation forces arrested him on March 25, 1971 from his Dhanmondi residence during the late-night crackdown on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is accorded a memorable reception at Tejgaon Airport in Dhaka on his return to the country from captivity in a Pakistan jail. He was imprisoned soon after the Pakistani occupation forces started crackdown on the then East Pakistan on March 25, 1971. FILE PHOTO

Raise major issues boldly, uphold national interest

Khaleda asks Hasina on her India trip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wishing Sheikh Hasina success on her visit to India, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said the premier should elicit assurance from India about some important issues like water sharing, maritime boundary, trade and market extension for Bangladeshi products and permission for Bangladeshi TV channels in India.

"The visit won't be fruitful if these serious issues are not high on the agenda," she said at a press conference last night at her Gulshan office.

She said BNP wants to cooperate with the government in the greater interest of the country. "We are placing the expectation and aspiration of the people ahead of the prime minister's visit to India so that she can raise the issues boldly to uphold our national interest."

Khaleda said the allegation has been rife that Indian security forces picked up their rebel leaders from Bangladesh territory, which is an extreme violation of the sovereignty of Bangladesh. She hoped Hasina would raise this issue too during her visit to India.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BANGABANDHU MURDER Three convicts seek presidential mercy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three of the five death-row convicts in Bangabandhu murder case yesterday sought presidential mercy through the jail authorities.

Lt Col (artillery) Mohiuddin Ahmed, Major Bazul Huda and Major (lancer) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed submitted their petitions to the jail authorities, Inspector General (prisons) Brig Gen Ashraf Islam Khan told a press briefing at his office in the evening.

The rest two--Lt Col Sultan Shahrar Rashid Khan and Lt Col Syed Farooq Rahman--will file review petitions through lawyers.

The jail authorities will today forward the mercy petitions to the home ministry, added the prisons chief.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed last night told The Daily Star that the home ministry will send the petitions to the law ministry, which in turn will send those to the prime minister's office.

From the PMO, the applications will go to the president's office.

The IG prisons said Sultan Shahrar Rashid and Farooq will have the chance to seek clemency till one or two days before the execution.

On January 3, the jail authorities issued death warrants and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Cricket board chiefs of 2011 World Cup host nations AHM Mustafa Kamal, left, of Bangladesh, Shashank Manohar, centre, of India and Somachandra de Silva of Sri Lanka hold aloft the trophy in its unveiling event at the Bangabandhu Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WC trophy unveiled

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh created a small piece of history on Saturday night when the 2011 World Cup, the flagship event of International Cricket Council (ICC) was officially launched at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

It was a moment to behold when ICC vice-president Sharad Pawar and CEO Haroon Lorgat handed over the World Cup trophy to the three co-hosts; the board presidents of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh after a brief yet lively ceremony conducted by former Indian captain Ravi Shastri.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

High hopes pinned on PM's India visit

REZAUL KARIM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today embarks on her first state visit to India since assuming office a year ago with Bangladesh pinning high hopes on opening up a new chapter in Indo-Bangla bilateral relations and keeping the issues of yawning trade imbalance, security and water sharing high on the agenda.

Hasina reaches New Delhi this evening on a three-day visit, sending signals she would seize the opportunity to seek warmer ties and resolu-



tion of longstanding issues with the world's largest democracy.

"We are eagerly looking forward to the visit of the prime minister, and I strongly believe it will enable us to build on the already solid foundation of our existing friendly relations with India," said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at a roundtable in

capital yesterday.

India has already said the Bangladesh prime minister's visit will be a "landmark" event in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

20th Death Anniversary

DEATH: 10TH JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother Late "Masuda Begum" wife of late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.). Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to almighty for her divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS.

Hasina to visit memorials of 3 Indian PMs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will offer floral tributes to the memorials of three Indian prime ministers on January 12.

Hasina begins her engagements on the third day of her visit at first placing a wreath at the memorial of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, at Shanti Van at 0955 hours.

Thereafter, Hasina will go to adjacent memorial of Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi, the former prime minister who had mobilised world opinion for liberation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

SJIBL Awarded

Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd. (SJIBL) has been Awarded with the Certificate of Merit by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) for its Annual Accounts and Report 2008 under category Financial Sector-Banking.



The Managing Director of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd. Mr. Muhammad Ali receiving the Certificate of Merit Award from the Hon'ble Minister for commerce Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan MP.



Shahjalal Islami Bank

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PROFOUND GRATITUDE

Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (Sponsor) and LR GLOBAL BANGLADESH ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY Ltd. announce with immense pleasure that the subscription of the Public Issue of Units of the DBH First Mutual Fund for **Tk. 40 crore** which closed on 20th December 2009, received tremendous public support and has been over-subscribed by about more than 13 times and has raised more than **TK. 530 crore**, the largest ever Fund collection for a mutual fund public offering in Bangladesh. The Asset Management Company and the Sponsor of the Fund take this special opportunity to express profound gratitude to the honorable investors for their strong support and confidence in the up-coming public issue of DBH First Mutual Fund.

The Sponsor and the Asset Management Company also acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation extended to the DBH First Mutual Fund public issue by the Securities & Exchange Commission, Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited, Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited, CDBL, Satcom IT Limited, Bankers to the Issue, Trustee and Custodian to the DBH First Mutual Fund and all other concerned parties to the IPO.

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