

OUTSTANDING LAND BOUNDARY DISPUTES

Indo-Bangla meet next month likely

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Joint Boundary Working Group of Bangladesh and India is expected to meet next month to comprehensively address all outstanding land boundary disputes. Highly placed sources said officials are working to implement various decisions and fulfil commitments made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in January. They said, during Sheikh Hasina's India visit on January 10-13, both the countries came to an agreement to address the land boundary issues keeping the spirit of the

1974 Land Boundary Agreement. "The joint boundary group will meet either on July or August to resolve the boundary disputes between the two countries," India's Home Secretary GK Pillai said in New Delhi on Friday. However, Bangladesh side was ready to convene the meeting much earlier, officials said. Officials of foreign and home ministries here are hopeful that the Joint Boundary Working Group will resolve issues related to adverse possessions, enclaves and the undemarcated areas, Pillai said. Bangladesh and India have a long porous border of around 4,098 kilometers.

Bangladesh expects India to ratify the Mujib-Indira Land Boundary Agreement soon, and it stressed the need for demarcating 6.5 km of border. According to an official estimation, at present there is 551.8 acres of Bangladesh land under adverse possession of India, while 226.81 acres of India land under adverse possession of Bangladesh. The issue of adverse possession traces back to the mid-1960s when East Pakistan and India demarcated the international boundary. The officials also said some 110 enclaves are situated inside Bangladesh territory and 55 enclaves in Indian territory.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks at a meeting with Jamaat-e-Islami leaders at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.



Awami League-backed mayor candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, left, and BNP-supported mayor candidate Mohammad Manjur Alam Manju, right, continue mass contact in the port city of Chittagong yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

CCC POLLS

JP candidate quits race to back Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jatiya Party (JP) backed mayoral candidate Solaiman Alam Sheikh here yesterday announced his decision to step back from contesting the June 17 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls, and extended support to ruling Awami League (AL) backed ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. With such a dramatic move Mohiuddin will now enjoy the full backing of the grand alliance in the election. Earlier on May 31, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami backed mayoral candidate Aferuddin Chowdhury withdrew his candidacy extending support to BNP backed Manjur Alam. Solaiman at a press conference at JP city unit office at Chawkbazar yesterday evening announced his decision extending support to Mohiuddin for the unity of the grand alliance.

Meanwhile, AL backed mayoral candidate Mohiuddin has become more confident as several rival party leaders extended support to him and promised to work for ensuring his win in the June 17 CCC election. On Friday, a team comprised of a few central leaders of the party from Dhaka led by AL central Joint Secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif went to Chittagong and sit with Mohiuddin and other AL leaders. Three anti-Mohiuddin local leaders, AL Chittagong city unit vice-presidents Mahtabuddin Chowdhury and Nayeemuddin Chowdhury, and organising secretary Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, all loyal to AL lawmaker Nurul Islam, arrived at the main office of Nagarik Committee around 7:00pm on Friday. They declared that they will campaign jointly for Mohiuddin at the meeting before the team. Three ward councillors Jalal Uddin Iqbal, Tareq Solaiman Selim and Giasuddin, who raised voices against Mohiuddin several times and are now vying for councillor posts, also came with them and attended the meeting. AL central Joint Secretary Mahubul-ul Alam Hanif, AL Presidium Member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, AL Chittagong divisional unit organising secretary Ahmad Hossain, central Executive Member Aminul Islam were present at the meeting. RO letter to EC. Meanwhile, returning officer of the CCC election here yesterday sent a letter to the

secretary of Election Commission (EC) to take action regarding participation of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) chairman in an electoral campaign. In the letter, the RO mentioned that from two local dailies and election office sources, they knew that CDA Chairman Abdus Salam took part in an electoral campaign on behalf of mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. The RO Jesmin Tuli also mentioned that since CDA is a government organisation, its chairman's participation in electioneering constitutes a breach of electoral code of conduct. She also told The Daily Star that Salam cannot participate in any electoral campaign on behalf of any candidate as he is the chairman of the CDA and enjoys facilities from the government. "We sent the letter through fax to the EC to take step in this regard," she said adding that a copy of the letter will also be sent to Abdus Salam. CDA Chairman Abdus Salam took part in a campaign with Mohiuddin in the city's Mohora area Friday afternoon. The RO also issued show-cause notices yesterday to the two candidates-- Enamul Haq Muniri and Hossain Murad--for councillor posts of Ward No 37 (West-Middle Halishahar) after they were locked in a clash over the election campaign in the presence of local lawmaker MA Latif Wednesday night. "We asked them to explain within 24 hours why the RO should not recommend that the EC cancel their candidacy," said the RO.

Walk to end hunger today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of its campaign to end hunger, the World Food Programme (WFP) will organise a walk today in the city. The walk will be held to raise awareness and money to feed hungry school children in some of the poorest countries. The process of determining losses has already been started, Razaque said, adding: "The process is being done speedily under the leadership of Disaster Management Department involving the district administration, local lawmaker and people's representatives. A list of the affected people and families has already been made, he said, adding that this list is now being examined with the help of local lawmaker and people's representatives. "After finalising the list, the main task of rehabilitation would be started as per that list," he said. Razaque said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given specific guidelines to his ministry and other concerned. "Tasks have already been initiated as per the guidelines," he added. He said the neighbouring friendly countries have expressed sympathy for the devastating incident. Some countries have given proposals

for rendering their supports, he said, adding that the government is considering over the proposals. After determining the total loss, it would be considered whether international aid is required or not. But the government has taken quick initiative for rehabilitating the affected people rather than waiting for international aid, he said. The minister said the government has already given Tk 20,000 for each of the dead in the blaze for their funeral, Tk 20,000 for each of the affected families, Tk 10,000 for each of the injured for cost for other than treatment. The government will bear all necessary treatment costs for all burn injured people, he said quoting the prime minister. Director General of Disaster Management Department Jahurul Haque told BSS that the officials of the department are relentlessly working day and night for giving supports to the affected people since the day of incident. A control room is functioning at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital since the day of incident for ensuring proper treatment of the injured and also for monitoring overall activities. Besides, arrangements have been made for purchasing medicine which are not available in the hospital, he added. The department is making arrangement for food and shelters for the affected people and their relatives.

Tk 1.22cr stolen from RMG factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tk 1.22 crore was stolen from the vault of a garment factory at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) at anytime between Thursday night and yesterday morning. Authorities of Shanta Industries Ltd suspected that its security guards, who were hired from a private security company, might be involved in the burglary. Wing Commander (retd) Mahmud Islam, general manager (Human Resource Management) at the factory, yesterday filed a general diary with Ashulia Police Station in this connection. He mentioned in the GD that they left the garment office around 8:35pm on Thursday keeping the money in the vault on the first floor of the building, but they found the vault broken at about 7:30am yesterday. The official also stated that they found its CCTV camera broken and suspected the security guards might be involved in the theft. Zahir Ahmed, general manager (Finance and Account), told The Daily Star that they drew the amount from a bank for paying salaries to their 2,200 employees. "As all the money went missing, we could not pay the workers on the scheduled date today," he said. Contacted, Sirajul Islam, officer in charge of the Ashulia Police Station, said they had visited the spot and are looking into the allegation.

Fire victims to be rehabilitated

Says food minister

BSS, Dhaka

The government has taken initiative to provide all supports to the families affected in country's worst ever blaze that took place at Nimtoli in the old part of the city. Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razaque told BSS yesterday that the government has already allocated Tk 35 lakh as an emergency assistance. Besides, all-out measures would be taken for rehabilitation after determining causalities, he said. The process of determining losses has already been started, Razaque said, adding: "The process is being done speedily under the leadership of Disaster Management Department involving the district administration, local lawmaker and people's representatives. A list of the affected people and families has already been made, he said, adding that this list is now being examined with the help of local lawmaker and people's representatives. "After finalising the list, the main task of rehabilitation would be started as per that list," he said. Razaque said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given specific guidelines to his ministry and other concerned. "Tasks have already been initiated as per the guidelines," he added. He said the neighbouring friendly countries have expressed sympathy for the devastating incident. Some countries have given proposals

Climate talks: Parties yet to reach agreement

BSS, Bonn

Developing countries have raised new demands and pressed developed countries to take greater responsibility for climate change. China and the G77 said the new text needs to emphasise more emission cuts to be made by developed countries. While developed countries argued that atmospheric greenhouse concentration would not be stable without emission reduction of growing economies which consists over 30 percent of total emission. Some individual parties of the G-77 and China particularly Pakistan and Colombia opposed the 'most vulnerability issue' terming it 'confusing'. General notion is that Pakistan has supported India and China from behind to raise the issue. Bangladesh, the Maldives and Small Island States (SIS) raised their voice in the LDC coordination meetings against the move saying they want preferential treatment for the countries which are more exposed to climate change. African countries, termed as most vulnerable to climate change, want a "binding, inclusive, effective" deal made in

Cancun and implementing second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Small island states said the emission cut pledges of the big emitters so far are not enough and constituted a "death sentence" for many island states. A group, including the United States, Japan, Russia, Canada, Australia, Ukraine, New Zealand, Kazakhstan and Iceland, said they want a "long-term framework" beyond 2010, climate aid and the saving of forests. Bolivia suggested for 6 percent of GDP for climate budget in line with defence budgets. It also wanted the text to include a target for levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The European Union said the new text should refer to the Copenhagen accord and should include emission reduction targets for individual countries. Tuvalu rejected the idea saying any reference to the accord or wording from the accord should be included in the new text. Countries are also have differences on the role of World Bank and Global Environment Fund in the governance and management of the climate funds.

Around 60 lakh people in the country are in need of speech and language therapy, who could easily get the service from the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed, speakers said at an advocacy meeting at CRP at Mirpur in the city yesterday. The CRP has been providing Speech and Language Therapy since 2009. Speech and Language Therapy provides solution to a number of disability like cerebral palsy, autism, hearing impairment, cleft lip and palate, learning disabilities, stroke, head injury, Alzheimer disease, eating and drinking difficulties, personality disorder, anxiety disorder and depression etc, they said. From June 15, 2009 to January 31 this year some 1110 patients were provided with Speech and Language Therapy. But the most pathetic thing is that people are not fully aware of these problems and treat these diseases as curse. They did not even know where to go. So, CRP is trying to provide treatment to these patients at a very subsidised cost in its Mirpur and Savar centres, said Emdad Moslem, executive director of the CRP.

Nurse takes her life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nurse of Dhanmondi Hospital in Dhannondia allegedly committed suicide in a lavatory of the facility by injecting toxin in her bloodstream yesterday. Police recovered body of Shahana Akhter, 24, and a syringe filled halfway presumably with toxic liquid after they had broke into the bathroom on fifth floor. The fifth floor of the hospital is used as nurses' quarters. According to Shahana's co-workers she seemed quite depressed lately. She even told them that she was feeling down, said Touhidur Rahman, sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station. Shahana was on duty till early hours yesterday. As the bathroom was occupied for an unusual period of time the other nurses became suspicious and informed police in the morning. Hospital authorities said Shahana joined there on March 10 this year.

'60 lakh need speech and language therapy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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Cornea collection centre to be set up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to reducing cornea related blindness, the National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO) and Sandhani National Eye Donation Society have taken initiatives to set up a Cornea Collection Centre. The NIO has allotted a plot for the Sandhani National Eye Donation Society to set up the center. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the two organisations yesterday in this regard, says a press release of the society. Director of the NIO Prof Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque and President of the society Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan and Secretary General Dr Mohammad Habibe Millat signed the MoU. President of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Prof Mahmud Hasan, Prof AHM Enayet Hossain and Dr AKM Nazmul Sakib of the NIO, among others, were present.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Khulna division in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at many places over the country, Met Office said. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:44pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 38.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 21.7 degrees Celsius at Sylhet. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.7	23.4	80	87
Chittagong	32.0	23.6	81	78
Rajshahi	36.8	25.0	85	78
Khulna	36.5	25.2	78	66
Barisal	34.0	24.0	84	80
Sylhet	26.1	21.7	97	90
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.0	84	80



Relatives of Kamrunnahar Juthi, 21, a first year student of Siddheswari College, wait after hearing the news of her death at her residence in the city yesterday. Jyoti was killed in a road accident at Khilgaon yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR