LAND HANDOVER TO BANGLADESH

Assam assembly called to discuss issue Oct 17

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Northeastern Indian state of Assam has convened a special session of the legislature on October 17 to discuss handing over of Boraibari, a village in Assam's Dhubri district, to Bangladesh.

The disputed land comprising 193 acres came under the agreement on land boundary and exchange of enclaves signed during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent visit to Dhaka.

Opposition parties Asom Gano Parishad, BJP and student bodies like All Assam Students' Union have been flaying Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi ever since the deal was signed on September 6.

Gogoi, however, maintained that Assam has not parted with any portion of its land and that the two countries have amicably settled the land disputes pending since the partition. AGP leader and former chief minister Prafulla Kumar

Mahanta said Boraibari belongs to India while Gogoi blamed Mahanta for leaving some portion of the Indian side outside the barbed-wire fence along the international border with Bangladesh when AGP was in power.

The special session of Assam assembly was called by the state governor to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, BJP national spokesman Rajiv Pratap Rudy said his party would raise in parliament the land swap deal with Bangladesh alleging the Congress-led UPA government went ahead with signing such an important agreement without taking the opposition into confidence.

He also recalled that the Teesta water sharing treaty could not be signed due to last-minute reservations voiced by Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.



Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) organises a cycle marathon from in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday to promote September 22 as the "World Car Free Day".

PHOTO: STAR

Recruit more workers

Hasina urges Qatar

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the government and private entrepreneurs in Qatar to recruit more workforce from Bangladesh.

She made the call during a meeting with Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani on Wednesday noon on the sideline of the 66th UN General Assembly.

Hasina also sought investment from Qatar in various development sectors of Bangladesh for the benefit of the two coun-

Hasina and assured her of continued support from Qatar, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Hasina informed Sheikh Hamad of her government's efforts to procure modern dredgers to continue the capital dredging in major rivers of Bangladesh and sought cooperation from the Qatar government in this regard.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Ambassador at Large M Ziauddin were present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, the prime minister gave In response, the Qatar's prime minister interviews to the Wall Street Journal, the appreciated the leadership of Sheikh NewYorkTimes and the Washington Post.

Minister directs arrest of stalker

UNB, Dhaka

After reading newspaper reports of Shimul Nahar Shimul's suicide, the education minister yesterday talked to the deputy commissioner and police super of Habiganj over phone and directed them to arrest her stalker.

Shimul, a first year student of Syed Faiz Uddin College at Madhabpur, took poison after being harassed by the alleged stalker Abdul Awal.

Keep cars at home once a week to cut pollution

Speakers tell cycle procession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a cycle procession yesterday urged authorities concerned to take necessary steps so that car owners keep their cars at home once a week to reduce environment pollution, traffic congestion and dependency on fossil fuels.

Only five percent of the city's people ride cars which occupy around 70 percent of the roads and highways, creating heavy traffic congestion, they said.

The rally was organised by Save the Environment Movement in front of the city's National Museum.

Citizens' rights activists there urged to enforce a car-free day in keeping with major cities all over the world and to coincide with the international event on September 22.

They also stressed the need to create a bicycle-friendly atmosphere on the streets.

Their other demands include increasing taxes on car import, discouraging availability of loans to purchase cars, imposing onstreet car parking charges and improving public transportation services.

The movement Chairman Abu Naser Khan and Dhaka Cycling Club General Secretary Azharul Islam Masum also spoke at the rally.

Government should quit

Says SCBA president STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday demanded the government quit immediately to hold a midterm polls under a non-party caretaker government.

"An autocratic government, which is now running the country, has increased the price of fuels pushing the country people into severe sufferings. If this government does not step down immediately, the people's rage won't give any chance to escape," he said.

The SCBA leader was addressing a rally organised by a group of opposition lawyers at the main gate of the Supreme Court in support of the countrywide hartal enforced by BNP and its allies vesterday to protest price hike of fuels.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain, also an adviser to the BNP chairperson, alleged that the present government has been using law enforcers to thwart the opposition's movement against it.

Earlier yesterday, pro-BNP lawyers' platform Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum in collaboration with Islamic Lawyers' Council, a body of pro-Jamaat-e-Islami lawyers, brought out a procession from the SCBA office, but law enforcers obstructed them at the main gate of SC.

Rafiqul Islam Mian, Mahbub Uddin Khokan MP, Asifa Ashrafi Papia MP, Ragib Rouf Chowdhury, and Ruhul Quddus Kazol also spoke at the rally.



British Conservative Party Chairperson Baroness Sayeeda Warsi meets President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID



JU admission tests Oct 8-13

JU CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests under the 2011-12 academic sessions at Jahangirnagar University will be held on October 8-13, the university authorities said yesterday.

The test under Ka unit (faculty of mathematics and physical sciences) will be held on October 8, under Gha unit (faculty of biological sciences) on October 9, under Uwa unit (faculty of business studies) on October 10, under Kha and Chha units (faculty of social sciences and institute of information technology) on October 11, under Cha and Ja units (institute of business administration-IBA and faculty of law) on October 12, and under Ga unit (faculty of arts and humanities) on October 13.

The details of the admission tests' schedule and seat plan will be published in newspaper and will soon be available on the university's website:www.juniv.edu/ad mission.php.

A total of 166,000 applicants will compete against 2,400 seats at JU this year, meaning that there are some 69 aspirants for each seat. Last year 121,918 aspirants competed against 1,606 seats.



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