

SEA BOUNDARY

No need for talks with Myanmar

Says Rear Admiral Khurshed

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh no longer requires any negotiation with Myanmar to draw the country's maritime boundary after the verdict of the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

"There is no legal requirement to sit with Myanmar... we'll draw our boundary according to the chart given by the ITLOS," Additional Secretary (UNCLOS) at the Foreign Ministry Rear Admiral (ret'd) Khurshed Alam told the news agency yesterday evening.

He said there is no convention of setting pillar in the sea to demarcate the maritime boundary.

The ITLOS verdict given on Wednesday sustained Bangladesh's claims to a full 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Bay of Bengal, and to a substantial share of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) beyond 200 nautical miles.

Khurshed said after the verdict no foreign country can come for fishing within the 200 nautical miles in Bangladesh territorial waters. "What's important is that we'll have to increase the strength of our navy to intensify the guard within our maritime boundary."

He said the ITLOS verdict has bestowed Bangladesh with the undisputed right to fishes in the waters and natural resources beneath the seabed.

The Tribunal also awarded Bangladesh a full 12-nautical mile territorial sea around St Martin's Island, overruling Myanmar's argument that it should be cut into half.

PM, FM hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations and individuals congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni for Bangladesh's winning the legal battle with Myanmar in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) over its maritime right in the Bay of Bengal.

ITLOS on Wednesday read out the landmark verdict, which sustained Bangladesh's claim to 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay rejecting the claims of Myanmar.

In a joint written statement, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim hoped that Bangladesh would win in the verdict against India on the same issue.

The leaders also expressed caution about the proper use of this vast resource in the sea as the foreign companies like ConocoPhillips are engaged to explore the natural resources.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) and Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir also congratulated the prime minister and foreign minister for winning the milestone verdict.



(From left) Abdus Shahid, Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad; Abdul Hamid, Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad; Abdul Momin Talukder, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on environment and forest ministry; Golam Shabur and Robert Juhkam, UNDP resident representative; at the closing ceremony of the three-day 'International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Climate Change: Beyond COP 17' at Hotel Radisson in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

DU house tutors keep away from their roles

The VC says the authorities will monitor it

PALASH RAHMAN

House tutors at Dhaka University dormitories are not serving their due role to maintain the standard of food and take care of students' health and their accommodation problems.

They are supposed to allocate rooms and beds to new students. Instead, the role is taken over by the ruling party-backed student bodies.

It is those political organisations that exercise supremacy and decide the fate of resident students. What it results in is students' becoming hostage to the will of political leaders.

As long as they serve their interests, putting their study in the second place, they stay. If they do otherwise, they get punished--political leaders drive them out of hall.

At the DU halls where, for severe accommodation crisis, resident students have to spend nights on balconies, rooftop or at hall mosques, house tutors are far from their roles to evict

outsiders and fake, politically influential students who stay, often, singly in one room all the year round.

What is worse is student leaders rent hall rooms out to outsiders. According to the campus sources, the "business" is going on at more than five dormitories.

The university sources said house tutors have been deprived of their authority for over 30 years, as ruling party-backed student bodies take control over the entire range of matters of halls.

"Student leaders and their workers will agitate demanding my dismissal if I move to evict fake students and outsiders", a house tutor at Ziaur Rahman Hall told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

He blamed the university authorities for not taking steps to evict those illegal occupants for their political connections.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, however, said the

university authorities asked provosts and house tutors to perform their duty properly.

"We will conduct monitoring to ensure that house tutors deliver their best efforts for students", he added.

Students allege that house tutors also rarely visit the dining rooms to monitor if students are served sub-standard food or in unhygienic environment.

They hardly show up even if students suffer from illness while it is a duty of house tutors to take them to doctors and ensure proper treatment for them.

Asked, Saiful Haque, an assistant house tutor at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, trashed the allegations and said most of his colleagues perform their duty properly.

Prof Baitullah Quaderee, provost of the dormitory, however, suggested that provosts should make house tutors to perform their roles.

MEGHNA LAUNCH CAPSIZE

Resignation of shipping minister demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some civil society members and non-government activists yesterday demanded resignation of the shipping minister alleging that he failed to ensure safety of commuters over the riverine routes.

They also demanded the government provide Tk 3 lakh to the family of each victim of the recent launch capsizing in the Meghna while, in addition, ensuring rehabilitation for those who lost more than one member.

The demands were placed at a press conference organ-

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ised by Nou-Sarak and Rail Khat Rakkha Jatiya Committee (national committee to protect rivers, roads and railway sector) at Moni Singh-Farhad Trust Bhaban in the city.

MV Shariatpur-1, a double-decker launch, capsized in Meghna with over 250 passengers at Char Kishori under Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj after a collision with a cargo vessel on March 13.

A total 145 bodies were recovered till filing of this report at 9:00pm last night.

Former director general of Bangladesh Water Development Board Engineer M Enamul Haque emphasised proper implementation of laws and setting up police stations besides major rivers and riverine routes to ensure river safety.

Barrister Sadia Arman, a Supreme Court lawyer, advised the affected families to take legal help to secure compensation.

Green Club of Bangladesh President Nurur Rahman Selim stressed the need for ensuring lifebuoys and necessary lifesaving equipment in vessels to protect lives.

Moderating the programme, the committee Convenor Asis Kumar Dey placed a 15-point recommendation for riverine safety.

They include -- introducing computerised ticketing system to keep record of passengers, strengthening vigilance of Department of Shipping, launching drives against unfit and unregistered vessels and arranging training for masters.

Bangladesh Inland Waterways Association acting chairman Badiuzzaman Badal, Vice-Chairman Shahbuddin Milon and the committee Chairman Tushar Rehman also spoke at the programme.

Qulkhwani of Shawkat Jamil held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The qulkhwani of Shawkat Jamil, a senior staff photojournalist of The Daily Star, was held at his ancestral home at Katpatty Road in Barisal city yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, prayers were offered for the salvation of the departed soul.

His family members, journalists, local people, relatives, friends, and well-wishers attended the doa and milad mahfil.

Jamil died in Dhaka Tuesday. He was laid to rest at Barisal Muslim Graveyard the next day.



Journalists, politicians, socio-cultural activists and family members attend the qulkhwani of senior staff photojournalist of The Daily Star Shawkat Jamil at his ancestral residence on Katpatty Road in Barisal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP for early polls under CG

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday asked the government to restore the provision of non-party caretaker government by amending the constitution within June 10 and go for early elections.

Addressing a commemorative meeting at Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the afternoon, Fakhrul warned that the government may again witness people's vigor and strength like that of March 12 after June 10, a deadline set by BNP chief Khaleda Zia for restoration of the caretaker government system.

BNP organised the meeting in memory of the first death anniversary of late BNP secretary general Khandker Delwar Hossain.

Fakhrul who chaired the meeting said the "Moeenuddin-Fakhruddin government" was given an assignment to destroy the nationalist force.

He said Khandker Delwar had inspired the entire nation by dint of his indomitable courage. "Party leaders and workers used to be inspired seeing him," he added.

Fakhrul said those believe in independence, sovereignty and democracy will always remember Khandker Delwar.

He alleged that a serious conspiracy is being hatched again to annihilate the nationalist force and warned that BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will spearhead another struggle through forging a greater national unity to crush the conspiracy and thus protect the country.

MK Anwar, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Abdus Salam, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie, Jafrul Hasan, Habib-un-Nabi Khan Soheli, Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Shirin Sultana, Principal Suhrabuddin and Delwara Panna, among others, addressed the meeting.

Technician dies as lift falls on his head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lift technician died as an under-maintenance lift hit his head while he was working on it at Mirpur Section-2 in the city yesterday.

The victim is Ohiullah Saju, 28, a resident of Dholaipar of Kadamtoli.

His cousin and also a witness of the accident Anwar Hossain said they went to the National Heat Foundation office to repair the lift in the morning. Saju was fixing a problem under the lift on the first floor.

At one stage, the lift carrying him started getting down from the second floor and suddenly dropped on his head, leaving him dead on the spot, he said.

Mirpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kazi Wajed Ali said they made no arrest in this connection.

HISTORIC AGARTALA CASE Honour the accused Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launch yesterday demanded the government honour all the 35 accused in the historic Agartala case with Independence Award, considering them as national heroes.

The Agartala case is one of the milestones in history as it paved the way to the country's independence, they said, adding that the accused had contribution in freeing Bangladesh.

The Pakistan government framed the case in 1968 against 35 political personalities and high government officials. They were accused of being involved in a conspiracy to secede the East wing from Pakistan with the help of the Indian government.

The launching ceremony of "Manik Chowdhury: Swadhinata Songramer Bismriti Nayok", a biographical book edited by Nasiruddin Chowdhury, was held at Liberation War Museum.

Vupati Chowdhury alias Manik Chowdhury was one of the accused in the Agartala conspiracy case and also one of the organisers of the Liberation War of 1971.

The speakers said although the name of Manik Chowdhury was forgotten, he had been an unsung hero.

The accused are not being recognised the way they should have been, said Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser to a caretaker government.

But the people involved in the case should not be sorry as they will be respected forever, he said.

Manik's struggle for the people did not stop with the end of independence, he said.

Historian Prof Muntasir Mamun said the government should award all the 35 accused as they wanted to do something for the country, putting their lives at risk.

He also said the book would serve as an important addition to history and help those who would write in the future.

Commander (ret'd) Abdur Rouf and flight sergeant (ret'd) Abdul Jalil, accused of the case, and Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc, also spoke at the ceremony organised by Muktijuddher Chetona Sangrakh Khan Parishad.

10 lakh tonnes of Thai rice to be imported annually

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Thailand to import 10 lakh tonnes of rice annually from the Southeast Asian rice-exporting nation.

The MoU will remain effective until February 28, 2013 and can be extended further through mutual consent.

Bangladesh can import up to a million tonnes of standard parboiled rice subject to production situation in both countries at an agreed price prevailing at the time of the contract.

Last year, Bangladesh purchased two lakh tonnes of parboiled rice from Thailand under state arrangements.

Thai Commerce Minister Boonsong Teriyapirom and Bangladesh's Food Secretary Barun Dev Mitra signed the MoU on behalf of their respective governments, says a press release.

The Daily Star

Star Camps

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

Explore this week's Star Campus to catch mind boggling articles on a wide range of issues. The spotlight will be on the habit of book reading and how the method of reading books has metamorphosed through times.

Check out our regular trends section to how the patches of right colours can make you look better in an instant. We will also have humorous tales from schools and universities. An exclusive interview with journalist Simu Naser would give you inspirations to pursue your interest by braving all odds. Get the Star Campus tomorrow and enjoy a good read.

LOVE WITH BOOK