

MARITIME VERDICT

FBCCI hails

govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's apex trade body, FBCCI, has congratulated the government for having secured the landmark verdict that upheld Bangladesh's claim to the Bay of Bengal.

People's long-awaited demand for rational demarcation of the maritime boundary has been established through the historic verdict, a statement of the FBCCI said yesterday.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) believes that the country's development will be accelerated if the Bay resources are exploited properly.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) delivered its final verdict on March 14, sustaining Bangladesh's claim to 200 nautical miles exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay. It also rejects Myanmar's claims to that area.

Meanwhile, different political and socio-cultural organisations in separate statements greeted the government for taking necessary steps on time, which helped to gain the verdict.

Expressing satisfaction, Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) leaders urged the government to ensure the best use of the natural resources of the Bay waters.

The Workers Party of Bangladesh politburo expressed hope that Bangladesh would also be able to gain a positive solution to disputes over maritime boundary with India.

Bangladesh Awami Mukti Joddha Projanmo League termed winning of the case most significant achievement of the government and urged all to remain united to sustain the achievement.



Dr Suchandra Ghosh, an associate professor at University of Calcutta, presents a research paper on the second day of two-day "The Daily Star-Heritage Chatogram History Conference" at Theatre Institute Auditorium in Chittagong yesterday. On her left are Prof Joyanta Sinha Roy, Shariful Islam, Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Shahnaz Husne Jahan.

PHOTO: STAR

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Journalists' grand rally today

UNB, Dhaka

Journalists will hold a grand rally before Jatiya Press Club in the city today to press home their four-point demand including the arrest and trial of the killers of the journalist couple, Sagar-Runi.

Trial of the killings of all journalists across the country, stopping repression on them and freedom of the press are the remaining demands.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will organise the rally at 11:00am.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, on February 29, announced the programmes after a token hunger strike before Jatiya Press Club to meet the same demands.

As part of the programmes, BFUJ leaders went to different districts across the country to join the two-week-long programmes protesting the double murder and to meet the other demands.

In a statement, BFUJ presidents Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin Gazi and secretary generals Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and Shawkat Mahmud, DUJ presidents Abdus Shahid and Omar Faruque and general secretaries Baker Hossain and Shaban Mahmud, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sobuj and General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed and DRU President Sakhawat Hossain Badsha and General Secretary Sajjad Alom Khan Topu called upon all journalists and members of journalists' organisations to join the rally.

The next course of the movement will be announced from the rally.

On February 11, Sagar Sarowar, news editor at Maasrange TV, and his wife Meherun Runi, senior reporter for ATN Bangla, were found murdered in their West Rajabazar flat in the city.

Musa Ibrahim crosses Bangla Channel

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

English Channel winner Van Gool Milko of the Netherlands along with Bangladesh's first Mount Everest conqueror Musa Ibrahim yesterday swam across Bangla Channel.

The Dutch swimmer was accompanied by first Bangla Channel winner Lipton Sarker and Bangladesh Television cameraman Moniruzzaman.

They began swimming from Shah Parirdip jettyghat under Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar at 7:00am. The Netherlands' English Channel hero took three hours 46 minutes to cross Bangla Channel. He and his teammates reached St Martin's Island at 10:46am.

Lipton took five hours five minutes to cross Bangla Channel while Moniruzzaman took eight hours 10 minutes and Musa eight hours 18 minutes to reach the island.

The expedition was styled "Bangla Channel Swimming 2012".

DAILY STAR-CONCORD PROGRAMME 'Culture is offshoot of creativity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

With a view to promoting Bangla culture among students of English medium schools, a daylong programme was held at Foy's Lake Amusement Park in the port city yesterday.

The Daily Star in association with Concord Group hosted "The Daily Star-Heritage Chatogram History Conference" at Theatre Institute Auditorium in Chittagong yesterday. On her left are Prof Joyanta Sinha Roy, Shariful Islam, Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Shahnaz Husne Jahan.

The enthralling cultural sessions include poetry recitals, songs, dances, and theme presentations depicting the culture, nature and heritage of Bangladesh.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said the nation had to uphold its own culture alongside practising English in this era of globalisation.

This programme shows our love not only for our culture, but for the country as well, he added.

He also said the students of Chittagong English medium schools were making the highest achievement in their respective areas globally, which was very much a mat-

ter of pride for us.

Culture is a summation of language, heritage and beliefs, said Professor Emeritus Alamgir Muhammad Serajuddin, who was chief guest at the programme.

"The product of creative imagination is culture". Without practising native culture, intellectual development of a society cannot be imagined, he said.

Describing education as precious as diamonds, Prof Serajuddin, also former vice chancellor of Chittagong University, said young learners had to know their roots, society and culture as part of their education.

Around 300 students from nine English Medium Schools of Chittagong city took part in the cultural programme.

The institutions include Cider International School, Bangladesh Elementary School, Bay View School, European Grammar School, Chittagong Grammar School, Little Jewels School, Mastermind International School, Summerfields School and College, and Sunshine Grammar School and College.

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