

NEWS IN

brief

Dipu hopes for better relations with Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni hoped that bilateral relation with Myanmar would be more positive and constructive after the landmark verdict on maritime boundary issue, as the row between the two countries settled in a peaceful way.

She was speaking yesterday in parliament informing the people about the country's victory in the maritime boundary dispute with Myanmar.

Bangladesh on March 14 won a landmark verdict at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which sustained its claim to 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal rejecting the claims of Myanmar.

During her speech, Dipu said the government will not hesitate to take any "brave decision" in future to protect the country's interest.

Two held with Indian currency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized around 59.95 lakh Indian Rupees from a local hotel in the city's Uttara and arrested two persons, including a Pakistani national, in this connection.

They are Mohammad Moyeen Uddin, 40, of Korongi in Karachi in Pakistan, and Shafiqur Rahman alias Arif, 37, of Chandpur in Bangladesh.

Commander M Sohail, director of Legal and Media Wing of Rab, said, while raiding a room of Hotel Najar Valley at Sector-4 in Uttara, they arrested the duo and recovered the currencies from the room.

Three brickfields fined Tk 11 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) fined the owners of three brickfields in Narsingdi and Jhalkathi Tk 11 lakh for setting up the brickfields illegally and polluting the air of the areas.

The brickfields are- Elahi Bricks, Oyon Rakib Bricks and Hawladar Bricks, says a press release.

Enclave people on hunger strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

People of 111 Indian enclaves yesterday started an indefinite hunger strike in Panchagarh to press home their three-point demand, including immediate implementation of the 1974 Indo-Bangla land boundary agreement.

The programme started at 4:00pm alongside the Dhaka-Panchagarh highway adjacent to Puthimari Indian enclave in Boda upazila.

They also demanded that the two governments ensure fundamental rights of the enclave people of both the sides and free movement with passports to perform religious rituals.

The leaders said they would continue pressing their demands until those are met. About 200 people, including women and children coming from different enclaves, are taking part in the fast.

The people are living in awful conditions in the enclaves amid lack of adequate employment opportunity, infrastructure, educational institutions, electricity, medical facilities and security, they added.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Chapter of India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee (IBEECC) declared the programme at a press conference in Panchagarh town on Saturday.

The speakers said they were frustrated at no timeframe mentioned for exchange of the enclaves during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in September last year, when a protocol was signed to implement the 1974 land boundary agreement, also known as Mujib-Indira accord.

Left-leaning political parties of India including CPI (M) and Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), and human rights group APBRA extended their support to the programme, IBEECC Deputy General Secretary Diptiman Sengupta told The Daily Star.

Moinul Hossain, president of IBEECC's Bangladesh Chapter, General Secretary Golam Mostafa, enclave leaders Sirajul Islam, Mofidar Rahman and Bikash Roy also addressed the programme.

290 small vessels seized in Buriganga

UNB, *Keraniganj*

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) with the law enforcement agencies in a drive seized at least 290 cargo vessels and boats in the Buriganga River yesterday.

BIWTA sources said Coast Guard, Rab, maritime police and BIWTA officials conducted the drive from Jazeera under South Keraniganj to Kholamora under Keraniganj Model Police Station from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The drive would continue overnight.

They intercepted and seized 100 cargo vessels, 120 sand-loaded Belgrade and 60-70 engine-propelled goods-laden boats in two hours till 9:00pm on charge of plying in the river at night violating government order.

Locals alleged that the cargo vessels were plying after sunset in the river by managing a section of officials of the concerned department and some members of the law-enforcement agencies with money.

Earlier, the BIWTA imposed ban on plying cargo vessels and goods carrying water crafts at night to ensure a safe river zone.

The authorities issued warning that tougher action will be taken against cargo vessels and motorized boats if they defy the ban in future.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia with party lawmakers in her chamber at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to discuss the party's participation in the current parliamentary session. BNP later joined the session. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: BNP

TORTURE ON STUDENTS HC summons teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday, over a newspaper report, summoned the headmaster and a teacher of a high school at Shaturia in Manikganj to appear before it on March 22 on charge of torturing students for not wearing school uniforms.

Dhullya BM High School headmaster Md Shahjahan and sports teacher Md Salahuddin will have to appear before the court to explain their conducts on the issue.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim also issued a rule upon the superintendent of police and education officer of Manikganj to explain why criminal proceedings should not be brought against the headmaster and the teacher for torturing the students.

The court came up with the order and rule in a suo moto move following a report published on the Bangla daily Prothom Alo on March 15 with the headline "Shikshaker prohare chhatro hashpatale" (student assaulted by teacher in hospital).

HARASSMENT ON CHALLENGED STUDENTS Report on govt steps: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a report to it on the steps taken to stop harassment of and discrimination against challenged students in educational institutions as early as possible.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why their inaction to formulate a policy to prevent such acts should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries of the ministries of home affairs, education, health and social welfare, National Disability Welfare Coordination Committee, Rajshahi University vice chancellor and registrar, inspector general of police, director of health service and Bogra Saheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College principal were made respondents to the order and rule.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif came up with the order and rule after the hearing of a writ petition, filed on February 12 seeking directive on the authorities to stop such acts.

It was jointly filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Manusher Jonno Foundation, Centre for Disability in Development, Shankar Chakrabartee, father of a challenged student, and Tanjim Al Islam, a Prothom Alo journalist.

Madhusudan Chakrabartee, a student of Bogra Saheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, committed suicide on December 12, 2010 as he could not stand being tormented by his teachers for stuttering, says a BLAST press release.

Before committing suicide, Madhusudan had informed his father, Shankar Chakrabartee, on being tormented by the teachers and a case regarding this issue is now pending with a court.

But police did not submit any investigation report and even the institution concerned did not take any action, said the release.

Barrister Sara Hossain and Advocate Kazi Zahed Iqbal appeared for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Saju represented the government.



Winners of different competitions held during the day-long English Language Fair, jointly organised by The Daily Star and Robi, pose for a photograph at Haji Muhammad Mohsin High School in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rab nabs 3 'arms traders' after gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Munshiganj*

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 3 alleged arms traders at Char Kishoreganj in Munshiganj after a gunfight yesterday night.

The arrestees are Shahid, 28, Russel, 25, and Aziz, 23, all hailed from Char Kishoreganj.

Mejor Badruddoza, deputy director of Rab-3 in Dhaka, said Rab-3 personnel went to the traders to purchase arms in guise of customers.

However, sensing the presence of the elite force, the traders opened fire on Rab men, who also retaliated triggering a gunfight, he said.

Among the trio, Shahid sustained bullet injury in his leg and was admitted to Sadar Hospital where he is taking treatment now, he added.

BHASHANTEK PROJECT

Flats handover demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Affected flat owners of the city's Bhashantek housing scheme yesterday demanded the land ministry handing over their respective flats immediately.

Otherwise, they said they would go for demonstration, forming human chain and observing fast unto death, if their demands are not met within two weeks. They were speaking at a press conference under the banner "Low income and slum dwellers rehabilitation council" at the Jatiya Press Club.

They also protested the alleged move to turn the designated community centre of Bhashantek Punarbhashan Prokolpa (rehabilitation project) into a police station.

Zahirul Islam Masum, one of the flat owners, while reading out a statement, said only 1,100 out of around 4,500 applicants were handed their apartments so far while the rest are passing days in uncertainty and anxiety.

The land ministry hired a private developer, North South Property Development Ltd, to build 15,024 flats for the low income groups and slum dwellers.

But the ministry dismissed the contract with the developer on allegations of anomalies around two years back when the project was half way through, said Masum.

Meanwhile, each flat applicant paid Tk2 to 8 lakhs to the developer depending on the size and category of the flats.

Demanding investigation into the anomalies in the project, the speakers said the project caused untold sufferings to the flat owner's due to a corrupt section of the land ministry officials interfering with the project's implementation.

BSF obstructs Bangladeshi farmers to work

UNB, *Sylhet*

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) stopped farmers to cultivate vegetables inside 1,000 yards of Bangladesh land boundary at Padua border in Goainghat upazila on Friday morning.

Sources said more than 20/30 BSF jawans forcibly entered inside the Bangladesh territory and obstructed farmer Sadek Mia from working in vegetable field at about 10:00am.

At that time, Protappur Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members went to the spot and decided to hold a flag meeting.

The BGB and BSF held a flag meeting at No 1271 main pillar in the area at about 11:00am on Saturday.

BGB Company Commander Riaz confirmed the incident of BSF obstruction. He said the both sides at the flag meeting decided to stop cultivation in the disputed land for maintaining peace at the border.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers with hails at places accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:09pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Patukhali and lowest 15.0 degrees at Rangamati.

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	31.0	18.7	63	64
Chittagong	30.0	20.8	60	70
Rajshahi	32.9	18.6	73	67
Rangpur	29.8	16.8	59	57
Khulna	33.0	23.0	91	68
Barisal	33.0	20.2	83	74
Sylhet	30.0	18.0	69	42
Cox's Bazar	31.0	21.5	66	75

ZIA TRUST GRAFT

Case hearing deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the date for passing its decision on whether it would accept the charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three others in Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haq of the Senior Special Judge's Court fixed April 29 for passing the decision following an adjournment petition filed by the defence counsels.

Taherul Islam Towhid a counsel for Khaleda, submitted the petition saying that his client could not appear before the court due to her pre-occupation with the party's organising activities.

So, an adjournment of the hearing is prayed, Taher said.