

LAND BOUNDARY DEAL Indian parliament session ends without amending charter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian parliament missed another opportunity to take up the constitution amendment bill to help implement the Bangladesh-India land boundary agreement as the 3-month long budget session of the House was abruptly adjourned yesterday sine die two days ahead of schedule.

There was speculation that External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid was going to place the bill before the Upper House of Parliament yesterday.

The bill requires approval of two-thirds majority of the members present in both the Houses of parliament--Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

The next session of parliament is expected in July.

With the sudden curtailment of the session, key legislations like the land boundary deal, National Food Security Bill and the Land Acquisition Bill could not be passed. The second phase of the budget session turned to be a total washout amid opposition demands for the resignation of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and ministers--Ashwani Kumar and P K Bansal.

The government tried hard for passage of the Food Security Bill in the Lok Sabha but Opposition BJP stood ground saying it would facilitate its passage only if ruling Congress party sacked Bansal and Kumar.



Houses of people of the low-income group built on and around hill slopes in Moti Jhorna area of Chittagong city. The advent of the rainy season is putting residents of these structures at risk of landslides. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO:
ANURUP KANTI DAS

Hasina for translation of Bangla literatures

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised worldwide translation of creative Bangla literatures for the readers of other languages and cultures across the globe.

She gave the emphasis while inaugurating a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital marking the 152nd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and the Centenary of his receiving Nobel Prize.

The prime minister announced that a Rabindra University will be established at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj with an academic campus at Shilaidah in Kushtia and a Rabindra Academy in Bangladesh for higher study and carrying out research on Biswa Kabi Rabindranath Tagore.

A Bangladesh Bhaban will also be set up in Shanti Niketon of Paschimbanga to provide housing to the Bangladeshi stu-

dents studying there, she said.

The prime minister said Rabindranath envisioned a country free from hunger, poverty and illiteracy where people of all strata could live with peace and dignity while Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman all his life fought for building a Bangladesh where every citizen will lead a decent life.

She said that despite being a zamindar, Rabindranath was very kind to his subjects. He stood beside the people in times of their need. Rabindranath introduced micro credit programmes for the welfare of the poor and marginal people utilising the money he received from Noble Prize.

Presided over by Finance Minister AMA Muhih, the function was addressed, among others, by Cultural Affairs Secretary Dr Ranjit Kumar Biswas while eminent Rabindra researcher Ahmed Rafiq presented the commemorative lecture.

SSC exam result to come out today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations will be published today.

Officials of the education ministry and boards said they would publish the result despite a shutdown called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance. The examinees will get their result from their centres, websites and boards and through SMS from 2:00pm.

The website address is: www.educationboardresults.gov.bd.

To get the result through SMS, one needs to type SSC, give a space and type the first three letters of the board, give a space and type the roll number, give another space and type year and then send it to 16222 from any operators number.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will formally announce the results at a press conference at 1:00pm after handing over the copy of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 10:00am.

The examinations began on February 3, and the written tests ended on March 5. A total of 13,03,203 candidates from 27,073 educational institutions participated in the exams under 10 education boards. Of them, over 9.89 lakh students took the exams in eight general education boards.

Rains revive fear of Ctg landslides

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Several hundred families, living on and around the hills in the port city, are exposed to landslides that may lead to fatalities anytime with the onset of the rainy season.

Despite the dangers, the people do not want to move out for not having alternatives. Experts, however, suggest authorities evacuate the occupants before any disaster strikes.

Landslides in Chittagong hills killed 28 people last year, 17 in 2011, 11 in 2008, and 127 in 2007, raising concerns about the safety of those living in illegal houses on the hilltops, slopes and in foothills.

"I fear landslide any moment as the rainy season began," said Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan, who inspected the hills at Lalkhan Bazar, Batali Hill, Tankir Pahar and Tiger Pass areas, on Sunday amid torrential rains.

The Hill Management Committee has identified 14 risky hilly areas housing nearly 1,000 families.

Abdul Mannan said authorities would take alternative steps to ensure safety of these people after consulting with differ-

ent government agencies like the Public Works Department, railway, Wasa, and the city corporation who own most of these lands.

"We got scared when it rained heavily in the past, but not now anymore... even after announcement by the authorities," said Samsunnahar, a resident of Moti Jhorna area.

She explained that they bought the land on the hill ten years ago for Tk 40,000, and that they had no alternative housing arrangements so that they could relocate.

Locals say influential people with political blessing grab land, build houses and sell these to the poor at prices ranging from Tk 20,000 to Tk 1 lakh, claiming they own the land.

Then the buyers of the houses consider the land to be their own, and do not want to leave fearing the land would be grabbed, said Nurul Islam Nuru, a resident of Moti Jhorna.

Prof Jahangir Alam, vice chancellor of the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) and member of the Hill Management Committee, recommended that low cost apartments be built for rehabilitation of these people.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday celebrating the 152nd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and the centenary of him being accorded the Nobel prize.

PHOTO: BSS

HEFAJAT'S ATROCITIES BNP, Jamaat planned to overthrow govt: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami had planned to overthrow the government through the recent sit-in programme of Hefajat-e Islam in the capital, Awami League (AL) alleged yesterday.

But, the law enforcers successfully drove the BNP, Jamaat and Hefajat men out of the sit-in, said AL Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim.

He was talking to journalists at a press conference at the party chief's political office in Dhanmondi in the capital. Terming BNP, Jamaat and Hefajat "the same", he claimed that the organisations were trying to destroy the country's democracy through different ways under the leadership of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Nasim, also a former home minister, termed BNP's allegation of concealing dead bodies from the Hefajat's sit-in programme on Sunday a blatant lie.

He urged the country's people, AL leaders and lawmakers to remain alert about the possible violence by Jamaat-Shibir in the country today.

Activists of Jamaat-Shibir would try to resort to violence centring the judgment to be pronounced by International Crimes Tribunal against one of its leaders being tried on charge of crimes against humanity, he said.

AL leaders Ahmed Hossain, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Faridunnahar Laily, Mrinal Kanti Das, and Aminul Islam Amin were also present.

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