

TEESTA, LAND BOUNDARY DEALS Indian newspapers press BJP, Mamata for support

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian newspapers have editorially asked main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to see the "larger picture" and not oppose implementation of the land boundary agreement (LBA) and signing of the Teesta water-sharing deal with Bangladesh.

Ruing that India has "so far failed to deliver on the two most pressing matters for Dhaka" (Teesta and LBA), the Indian Express, in an editorial, said, "Delhi must move soon from verbal assurance to concrete action".

It says BJP's argument India would be losing more territory under the LBA "misses the point" that the existence of enclaves by the two countries "has been an abiding humanitarian tragedy for the inhabitants, deprived of basic amenities from either state." "At a moment when Hasina's government is battling to secure Bangladesh's identity as a secular state, India's main opposition party should not allow political compulsions to obscure the bigger picture," the daily says.

It adds that the growth in bilateral trade, India's allowing greater market access of Bangladeshi goods, giving power and one billion dollar credit line to Bangladesh "will not amount to much if Delhi fails Dhaka on the two things that matter most".

Regarding the proposed Teesta treaty and LBA, "Mamata needs to be generous", comments an editorial of The Economic Times. "Both these deals are necessary for Bangladesh's ruling Awami League which will face elections later this year," it says.

"Sheikh Hasina's government has been extremely good for India.....We need to strengthen Sheikh Hasina's hand with Teesta waters and the enclave swap."

An editorial in another leading daily, The Hindu, says, "It is...downright regrettable that India's domestic politics is the main reason why the UPA government has been unable to keep two promises to this important neighbour..."

BJP "has created irrational and unfounded fears around the agreement for exchange of India and Bangladeshi enclaves....unfortunately, the opposition has chosen to project the agreement (LBA), which would help rationalise the border and help people in these enclaves lead normal lives, as a territorial loss for India."

Pointing out that thanks to Bangladesh, the Ulfia in Assam was "neutralised" and there was a clampdown on other anti-India insurgencies and Islamist extremist groups, the editorial says, "If Indians today trust Bangladesh more than any other South Asian state, it is in no small measure due to this".

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had hoped to fight the 'pro-India' accusation against her by getting something substantial in return from New Delhi. But these hopes have been belied," it says, cautioning, "If New Delhi is unable to pull its act together before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit in September, it can only blame itself for losing an opportunity to help a friend."



A police team on behalf of the Dhaka district administration forms a guard of honour for freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Belal Mohammad at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday when his coffin lay in state there for people of all walks of life to pay their last tributes. Belal died in Apollo Hospital at the age of 77 on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Discuss how to improve pavement dwellers' lives

All-Party Parliamentary Group urges the House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent lawmakers of different political parties yesterday urged the parliament to discuss improving the conditions of pavement dwellers by including them in documentation processes, policy provisions, and social safety net programmes.

The recommendations came at a ceremony to launch a research publication organised by All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) at a hotel in the capital.

"The issues faced by pavement dwellers can be addressed by including them into social safety net programmes, municipality implemented documentation schemes, or policy plans like the National Housing policy," proposed Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee for the

labour and employment ministry.

The research, conducted by the APPG wing specialising in extreme poverty and urban pavement dwellers, said that there were about 50,000 pavement dwellers in Dhaka city alone and they were "the poorest of the urban poor".

Most of these people are illiterate and show a negative attitude towards education, according to the research.

AL Lawmaker Pinu Khan stated that most of these pavement dwellers are migrants from the rural areas who were victims of flooding or riverbank erosion.

State Minister for Industries Omor Faruk said, "We cannot reduce the number of pavement dwellers unless we provide job opportunities for them at their villages."

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, among others, also spoke at the programme.

BCS PRELIMINARY REVISED RESULTS Why 280 indigenous candidates dropped

HC asks Public Service Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the Public Service Commission to explain in three weeks why the commission has dropped the names of 280 successful indigenous candidates of the 34th BCS preliminary test from the list of revised results.

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule asking the government and the PSC to explain why dropping the 280 candidates' names from the revised results of 34th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary test should not be declared illegal.

A total of 59 indigenous candidates filed the petition. They said in the petition that a total of 12,033 candidates, including 280 indigenous candidates, passed in the first result published by the PSC on July 8.

PSC has published the revised list on July 14 where 46,675 candidates passed, but the names of 280 indigenous candidates are absent in the revised results, they said.

Ship bound for Ctg port stranded in Andaman Sea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong Port-bound container vessel got stranded in the Andaman Sea near Myanmar coast last night as its engine went out of order.

The Indonesian flagged vessel MV Gladys carrying 869 TEUs (twenty feet equivalent units) sailed from Port Kelang in Malaysia on July 26 and was scheduled to berth at Chittagong Port Tuesday.

Later, the schedule was re-fixed for August 1 as the vessel's engine had been giving trouble since Tuesday afternoon, said Kazi Shahid Mahmud, deputy general manager of the ship's local agent Trident Shipping Lines.



PHOTO: STAR

Buyers crowd Maha Fashion House in Nayasarak area of Sylhet city on Tuesday. Eid shopping has gained momentum in Sylhet as in other cities as the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr approaches.

ABDUL ALIM'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Tribunal unhappy over defence's time petitions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday expressed discontent over seven adjournments sought by counsels of war crimes accused BNP leader Abdul Alim since the day the last prosecution witness was scheduled to testify.

Cautioning the defence, the tribunal said it would close the cross-examination of the 35th witness, ZM Altafur Rahman, on August 4 if the defence failed to cross-examine him that day.

Alim's counsel Tajul Islam yesterday sought adjournment citing, as in the past, illness of Ahsanul Huq Hena, the defence counsel who usually cross-examined prosecution witnesses.

On July 8, the cross-examination of Anisur Rahman and Nabibur Rahman, the 33rd and 34th prosecution witnesses, was completed.

Although the court fixed July 11 for recording testimony of Altafur, also investigation officer of the case, four adjournments, sought for the illness of either the accused or his counsel, took it to July 24.

After Altafur had given his testimony on July 24 and 25, the court intended to fixed July 28 for his cross-examination but set it to July 29 following another adjournment plea.

On July 25, the court asked defence to complete the cross-examination from July 29 to August 1. But, on July 29, the defence sought another adjournment. On July 30, Hena cross-examined Altafur for 40 minutes.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan yesterday said the defence, was several times asked to manage an alternative lawyer but they did not follow it.

Tajul said it was not possible to manage a new lawyer within such a short time.

"One lawyer may fall sick, one may remain busy with family matters, but the court can not allow adjournment on these grounds for days," said the court.

Alim, a former member of late president Ziaur Rahman's cabinet, was indicted on 17 charges including murder and genocide allegedly committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Woman drowns, son missing in boat capsized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman drowned and her two-year old son went missing in a boat capsized in the Buriganga river near Swarighat in Old Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased was Maniza Begum, 38, while the missing is Md Mayeen.

An engine-run boat hit the other boat carrying, Maniza and her three sons, while the latter was crossing the river to go to Keraniganj in the morning, said Sarkar Md Safiulla Didar, station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence, quoting the witnesses. Maniza's one of the sons Sagor, 12, rescued his five-year-old brother by swimming the river, he added.

Fire service men recovered the woman's body in a four-hour effort.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, former ambassador of Bangladesh to Brunei, died of a cardiac arrest at a New Delhi hospital yesterday. He was 63.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, a son and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

He hailed from Shimulia of Shibpur, Narsingdi.

Hedayetul, former director general of Department of Environment, also served as the secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division during 2003-2006.

Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi is providing necessary assistance to his family.

Mehadi Hasan Zico

CITY DESK



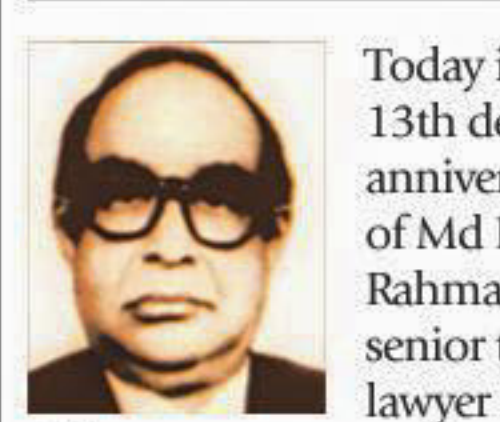
Mehadi Hasan Zico, account executive at Grey International Bangladesh

Ltd, passed away due to failure in pancreatic functions at Square Hospital in the capital yesterday. He was only 28.

He had been on a life support, says a press release.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Md Lutfar Rahman, a senior tax lawyer in Chittagong.

His relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul, says a press release.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Copyright Office
Ministry of Cultural Affairs
National Library Building
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
Email: registrar@copyrightoffice.gov.bd

Memo No.: 1(78)/2013 - Admin/359

Date: 30/07/2013

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Manzur Morshed Chowdhury
Registrar of Copyright

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PRESIDENT AS SCOUTS CHIEF

HC asks govt why it should not be refrained from nominating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to refrain from nominating the president as the chief of Bangladesh Scouts.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to explain why they should not be directed to abstain from putting government officials on different posts of the scouts and not to collect money from students to bear its expenses.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain came up with the rule following a writ petition challenging the provision of the Bangladesh Scouts constitution for nominating the president as its chief.

Lawyer Khandker Md Rafique Hasnani and journalist SM Nurullah Masum recently submitted the petition, saying that the president could not discharge duties of any post other than the president's as per the constitution.



Expanding Horizons

Daily Star Books

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riot

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