

MARITIME DISPUTE WITH INDIA

## Hearing begins tomorrow

Bangladesh team leaves for Hague today  
UNB, Dhaka

The hearing on the case related to the Bay of Bengal maritime boundary dispute between Bangladesh and India will begin at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Netherlands tomorrow.

A Bangladesh delegation is scheduled to leave Dhaka for the Hague today to join the eight-day hearing at the five-member tribunal.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmud Ali, former foreign minister and agent of the case Dr Dipu Moni and Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque are likely to join the team.

The Netherlands-based PCA is expected to deliver its judgment by the first half of the next year, foreign ministry sources said.

The arbitral tribunal members are Prof Dr Rüdiger Wolfrum (President), Judge Thomas A Mensah, Dr Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao, Prof Ivan Shearer, and Judge Jean-Pierre Cot, according to PCA documents.

Bangladesh is represented by Dipu Moni (agent), and deputy agent of Bangladesh and secretary of the foreign ministry's Maritime Affairs Unit Rear Admiral (ret'd) M Khurshed Alam.

India is represented by joint secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, Dr Neeru Chadha; joint secretary (BSM) to the ministry, Harsh Vardhan Shringla; and director (BSM) to the ministry Puneet Agrawal.

On October 8, 2009, Bangladesh moved for arbitral proceedings concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and India pursuant to Article 287 and Annex VII, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as registry in this arbitration.

Bangladesh won a landmark verdict against Myanmar on March 14, 2012 at the ITLOS and through the verdict, Bangladesh sustained its claim to the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal.

## Seek climate

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Foundation (PKSF), who was present as chief guest.

Every year, the COP makes some progress on some issues, adaptation or financial or carbon trade, but the pace of the progress is too slow, he said.

He also urged the government not to put anyone on the government's delegation for climate conferences because sometimes it created humiliating situation.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad arranged the programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity where Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Masud, a climate expert from PKSF, presented the keynote paper.

Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), laid stress on training activists working on climate change issues, as it is a technical issue.

Dr Nurul Qadir, a joint secretary of PKSF, was present as a special guest, while MA Jalil, chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, chaired the programme.



Shattered windshields of parked taxis in Bhashantek of the capital's Mirpur show the trail of destruction left behind by opposition activists during the 72-hour blockade starting 6:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Defy orders for poll works

BNP's Salauddin Ahmed urges govt officials

UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition BNP yesterday called upon government officials and employees to neutrally perform their duties and disregard orders requiring involvement in the upcoming election.

"You are the servants of the people of the country. Do not be used as a tool of any party or individual to fulfill illegal desires," said BNP Joint Secretary General Salauddin Ahmed.

In a video message recorded in an undisclosed location and sent to the news agency, the BNP spokesperson also urged the Election Commission to postpone "the lopsided and farcical polls".

Claiming that the Awami League wants to hold a farcical election as it fears a fair one, he requested the people of the country to unite to ensure the fall of the current regime.

Salauddin said the Commonwealth, the European Union, the United Nations and other organisations and states have not yet decided to send election observers to monitor the government's "one-sided polls" in Bangladesh.

"Even most of the election monitoring bodies and organisations registered with the Election Commission did not apply for observing the election. Besides, the majority of the teachers expressed unwillingness to discharge duties in the polling centres," he said.

## South Ctg residents choked by smog in winter

Blame state-run fertiliser factory emission

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

As soon as winter evenings approach, residents of Hadi Para and Hossain Ahamed Para in Chittagong city's southern tip are driven indoors by a pungent intermittent haze.

Locals complain of burning eyes, lips and tongue and a tingling sensation on the face, nostrils and skin and, after an extended period of exposure, of feeling nauseous and breathless.

This year the smog, as the locals claim, blanketed the neighbourhoods on October 9 around 10:00pm, leading to low visibility and made staying even inside homes difficult. After around two hours, it lifted just as it came.

The locals unanimously pointed their fingers at the adjacent Triple

Superphosphate Complex Ltd, a state owned fertiliser factory situated in the Patenga industrial area, blaming it for releasing toxic gases every winter since its inception in 1964.

Reinforcing the claims, a former chief chemist of the factory, requesting anonymity, recently told The Daily Star that during overhauling every winter, some gas containing sulphur-dioxide, silicon tetrafluoride, hydrogen fluoride and acid mist does escape.

The locals alleged that they had requested the factory authority to release the gas after midnight, if stopping it altogether is not possible, but to no avail.

Another bout of smog on November 4 prompted the locals to vandalise the factory compound. Police were called in but they too asked

to stop the emission. But the smog rolled in again, as per the locals, four times.

The factory's managing director, Golam Shahid Azad, over the phone recently, initially claimed that no such emission took place. He later admitted that some gas "might have escaped due to power outages".

On November 14, a petition, signed by 150 locals, was submitted to the Chittagong office of the Department of Environment (DoE).

Its director, Zafar Alam, said they got the same complaint last year and the factory authority had admitted that it was an "accidental leak".

The DoE at that time had issued a warning, he said, adding that this time they would investigate the matter and take punitive measures, if necessary.

## Road crashes kill four

CITY DESK

Four people were killed and seven others injured in road accidents across the country yesterday and Friday.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports, three people were killed and two others injured when a covered-van collided head-on with a car carrying them before Kanchpur Still Mill in Narayanganj yesterday.

The dead were Md Jasimuddin, 36, of Comilla, and Md Mostafa, 70, and Abdul Hakim, 30, both of Feni. The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police seized the covered-van.

Our Bogra correspondent adds, Ferdousur Rahman, district correspondent of The New Nation, and four other men were injured when a bus veered out of control and hit them at Arelia on Bogra-Noagaon road in Bogra town on Friday.

Ferdousur was treated for his broken arm at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital while the others only needed first-aid.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds, Ameer Ali, 30, of Kurigram, was killed when a truck rammed his motorbike at Baro Awlia in Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

## BGB detains 3 for trying to cross Hili frontier illegally

BSS, Rangpur

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday detained three Bangladeshi nationals at Hili frontier in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur while they were trying to cross the border without proper documents.

A BGB team of Hili CP Camp detained Sunil Chowdhury, 60, his brother Doyal Chowdhury, 30, and their neighbour Tapan Chowdhury, 30, all of Gazipur, in Dab Bagan area.

Later, the BGB authorities handed them over to Hakimpur police.

They will be produced before the mobile court of Executive Magistrate Azaharul Islam, said Hakimpur police.

## Violence, killing aimed at saving war criminals

Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad discussion told

BSS, Dhaka

A vested quarter is creating anarchy resorting to acts of violence and burning innocent people to death in their bid to save the war criminals, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest, Barrister Amirul-Islam, an architect of the country's constitution, blamed the successors of the perpetrators of the 1971 genocide for these killings.

"The miscreants have ganged up and are trying to destabilise Bangladesh in their bid to transform the country into a neo-Pakistan or Afghanistan," he observed.

The discussion was organised by an association of freedom fighters, Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club in the run-up to Victory Day celebrations.

The eminent jurist called for identification and exemplary punishment of the persons responsible for creating crises in the country to save war criminals.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof

AAMS Arefin Siddique said a vested quarter was frantically trying to create anarchy when the war crimes verdicts were coming one after another.

"The culprits behind the widespread violence should be brought to book and given the capital punishment to restore peace and stability in the country," he said.

In the beginning of the discussion, one minute of silence was observed in honour of South African anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela who passed away on Thursday.

Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad President Syed Rezaur Rahman chaired the discussion, while Secretary General Shahjahan Kabir (Bir Protik), senior Supreme Court lawyer Shamsul Alam and Mahila Muktijoddha Sangsad leaders Prof Dr Ferdousi Begum and Farida Khanam Saki spoke among others.

They underscored the need for forging greater unity of the pro-liberation forces, particularly of the organisations of the freedom fighters, to defeat once again the defeated forces of 1971.



Triple Superphosphate Complex Ltd, a state-owned fertiliser factory situated in Chittagong city's Patenga industrial area, spews out gases which, residents of adjacent neighbourhoods allege, intermittently create smog every winter and cause skin and eye irritation and induce nausea and breathlessness. The photo was taken on December 3.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Faruk, a Chittagong city resident, seems to reflect the people's utter disdain for the political crisis created by the ruling and opposition parties over the upcoming general election. He goes around the city with this banner which reads, "I neither want Hasina nor Khaleda, I want to live my life properly, want citizens' rights". When asked for his identity at the time this photo was being taken at Cheragi Pahar area yesterday, Faruk said, "I am a citizen of Bangladesh".

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Depression over Bay

UNB, Dhaka

The depression over the southwest Bay and adjoining area remained practically stationary over the same area yesterday.

It was centred at 12:00am on Friday about 1,615km southwest of Chittagong port, 1,545km southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 1,505km south-southwest of Mongla port, Met Office sources said.

## AL bluffed about full

FROM PAGE 3

"The indigenous people have been deprived of basic human rights for many years. Implementing the peace accord will be the first step towards protecting their rights."

At a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity following the human chain, speakers urged all political parties to prioritise the issue of the accord's implementation in the next parliamentary election.

"If the state's attitude towards the indigenous peoples of the hills remains unchanged for long, they will be wiped out from their native land in near future," said Sanjeeb Dron, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

Parbattya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), an organisation of indigenous communities of the CHT, signed the accord with the then AL-led government on December 2, 1997.

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