

# Indian media hail maritime verdict

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

After a week of UN arbitral tribunal's verdict, NDTV for the first time yesterday reported that India was not "the loser" while news portal Firstpost termed the judgment a "diplomatic victory" for India.

In an article, Firstpost Consulting Editor Rajeev Sharma in the portal said a historic development has taken place a few days ago regarding the 40-year-old India-Bangladesh maritime dispute which has not been as intensely reported and commented upon in Indian media as it deserved.

"The verdict, binding on both countries, opens the way for Bangladesh to explore for oil and gas in the Bay of Bengal, and ends a dispute over a sea border with India that has ruffled ties between the neighbours," said NDTV, an Indian leading television channel, in a report posted on its website claiming that it has accessed an internal government of India note that suggests otherwise.

"So has India lost out?" mentioned the NDTV report adding, "Even though India believes the delimitation has been done in an arbitrary fashion, it is not the loser."

It said the control of the disputed New Moore Island (called South Talpatti in Bangladesh) and concomitant access to Hariabhanga river is a significant gain. The island, supposedly rich in oil and natural gas, has been a traditional sore point between the two countries.

The Hariabhanga river, which flows around the Sundarbans in West Bengal and borders Satkhira district of Bangladesh, and the region holds twice the amount of hydrocarbons as compared to the Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh, said the NDTV report.

The Firstpost said, "For India too it is a matter of satisfaction and also a diplomatic victory for several reasons." It cited three reasons of India's satisfaction. One is that the UN permanent court of arbitration acknowledged India's sovereignty over New Moore Island and grants India concomitant access to the Hariabhanga river.

The disputed region was near the mouth of the Hariabhanga river, an area of huge strategic importance for India in the coming decades, it said.

In 2006, India had discovered 100 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in a creek about 50km to the south of the mouth of the Hariabhanga within the contested region, mentioned Rajeev in the article.

The second reason, according to the article, is equally important for India. While it is true that Bangladesh has 'gained' close to twenty thousand square kilometers in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), India has reasons to be happy as the award has split the area in question in favour of India which is significantly closer to India's claim than that of Bangladesh.

Thirdly, the article said this is good news for millions of Indian fishermen in West Bengal and Odisha as well as Bangladeshi fishermen as the settlement opens up miles of unchallenged open sea that was not available to them in past four decades.

## Bangladeshis protest

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and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam urged for international initiatives to stop the heinous killings in Gaza.

"This type of barbaric attack in the month of Ramadan is totally unexpected, and the people of Bangladesh along with the rest of the world are stunned to see such a kind of attack," he said in a press statement.

Bangladesh Workers Party, an ally of the AL, also protested and condemned Israel's air strikes. The party, in a press statement, questioning the role of United States of America, termed the country Israel's guardian.

Meanwhile, HM Ershad, Jatiya Party chairman and prime minister's special envoy, also heavily criticised the attacks.

He wrote an article, which was published in Bangladesh Protidin on Saturday, urging the UN and international community to mount pressure on Israel to cease its attacks.

Over 127 Palestinians have so far been killed since Israel began its air strikes five days ago, according to media reports.



**Pedestrians risk their lives crossing Dhaka-Aricha highway at Kacha Bazar in Savar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday in absence of a much-needed foot overbridge there. Though construction of an overbridge started there around one year back, it is yet to be completed. As the thousands of people cross the busy thoroughfare every now and then, the road remains stuck in tailback.**

PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

## BCL man abducts

FROM PAGE 3  
a giant screen at Mohsin Hall, said Prof Amjad Ali, acting proctor of DU.

As Mostafizur reached the hall, the duo confined him to the room, and demanded Tk 70,000 from his father as ransom over the phone, he added.

His father then informed police.

Sources in the BCL said some outsiders had been living at the room of AB Siddique Rahat, a resident of the dormitory and a deputy secretary of BCL central committee.

The victim's father lodged a case with the Shahbagh police accusing three named and three unnamed persons, SI Azim said.

Contacted, Mehedi Hasan Mollah, BCL president of DU unit, told The Daily Star that the student given allotment of the room is involved in the politics of pro-Awami League BCL.

But he does not live in the room now; if anybody lets outsiders live in the room and gives shelter to commit such unethical practice, action will be taken against them, the BCL president said.

Confining people to DU dorms for ransom by BCL activists has been a regular practice.

Since February this year, at least six other such incidents involving Dhaka University BCL activists have come to light.

## NHRC challenges Tanvir's

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Commission's lawyer Fawzia Karim Firoze moved the petition before the HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar, saying that three HC benches and lower courts had earlier refused to grant bail to Tanvir in this case.

Fawzia prayed to the HC bench to grant bail to Tanvir and to issue a rule questioning the legality of the government's action to keep him detained.

After hearing her arguments, the bench advised the lawyer to move a fresh petition for bail before another HC bench, which has power to deal with bail petitions, and also adjourned hearing of the writ petition

for a week. Fawzia Karim, also a member of the National Human Rights Commission, told The Daily Star that the human rights commission had decided to move the writ petition on behalf of Tanvir on human rights ground after his father Mahbubur Rahman prayed to the commission for doing it.

Sagar Sarowar, news editor of private TV station Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Rumi, senior reporter of another channel ATN Bangla, were killed at their rented flat in the capital's West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012.

Their only son Mahir Sarowar Megh, then 5, was home at that time.

## Killers of my father

FROM PAGE 5  
she saw that Dulal, Jewel, Sohel and five to six others were inside it.

"They forced me inside the microbus and drove away with me in it. After sometime, Dulal pressed a handkerchief over my nose and I became unconscious," she said.

When Parvin regained consciousness, she saw that she was in a room with the woman and three to four unknown men.

"They beat me up and ordered me to withdraw the murder case. Then they knocked me out again," Parvin said.

When she woke again she was in the microbus which was on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. The kidnappers tied her hands and legs and gagged her before leaving her beside the highway in Habiganj.

With help from an auto-rickshaw driver, she went to a local market and managed to call her husband.

Parvin's husband Minhajul Islam filed an abduction case with Joydebpur Police Station accusing Dulal, Sohel, Jewel and six others.

Superintendent of Gazipur Police Abdul Baten said they were trying to arrest the abductors.

## Current JS club

FROM PAGE 3  
alliance). We must now get united in the interest of the country and its people. We'll have to take to the streets to force Sheikh Hasina government to hold a fresh and inclusive election," she added.

Senior leaders of BNP and its allies, civil society members and diplomats from different countries, among others, were present.

## Court asks cops

FROM PAGE 5  
pressed charges against the 51 people in the two cases filed in July 2012.

They were charged with misappropriating funds through Destiny tree plantation project and Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, according to the ACC.

## JU Eid vacation begins Tuesday

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University will go on Eid vacation from Tuesday and classes and examination will resume on August 8.

This time student's dormitories will remain closed from July 22 to August 7 for some repairs, said JU Vice-chancellor Prof Farzana Islam.

Meantime, administration of the university will go on the vacation from July 25 to August 3.

## DU evening MBA admission test result published

UNB, Dhaka

The result of the admission test of the 28th Batch MBA (Evening) Programme under the Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University was published yesterday.

The result of the test held on July 4 is available on www.du.ac.bd.

Successful candidates have been advised to appear before the Viva-Voce Board at the office of the faculty dean on July 19 and 20, said a press release.

## Women workers

FROM PAGE 5  
of World Vision Bangladesh, the study also looked at the condition of small women entrepreneurs and interviewed 83 of them.

It found that 47 percent of the women sell their products from the production site and do not have the opportunity to participate in the competitive market. Only 4 percent of female entrepreneurs can take the products to a nearby town.

The main reason why women entrepreneurs could not go far from their homes to find a better market is that they had to look after the household chores besides running the businesses.

Meher Afroze Chumki, state minister for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; MM Akash, professor of economics of Dhaka University, also spoke at the event.

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## Bribe taking tax man

FROM PAGE 5  
reluctance to process the file, demanding Tk 22,000 as bribe for disposing of the matter, said Kashem, adding that he had to pay the amount to get the job done.

But Jahid threatened to increase the amount of tax if he was not paid additional Tk 20,000, Kashem claimed.

He added that he had then informed the ACC about the matter, and as per advice of ACC he had agreed to pay the amount to help the anti-graft watchdog nab the culprit re-handled. ACC Deputy Assistant Director Md Akhteruzzaman filed a case with Double Mooring Police Station in this regard, and detained Jahid was handed over to police.

Contacted, Iqbal Hossain, additional commissioner of Tax Zone-4, said they would take initiative to suspend Jahid.

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