



PHOTO: STAR

People of Puthimari Indian enclave in Boda upazila of Panchagarh are all smiles while distributing sweetmeat on Friday on hearing that Paschimbanga chief minister Mamata Banerjee had finally wanted to resolve the enclave issue in near future.

Enclave people's joy knows no bounds

Mamata gesture rekindles hope

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Thousands of people residing in 162 adversely located enclave areas of India and Bangladesh were jubilant on hearing on Thursday the prospect of early implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between the two countries as exchange of the enclaves would enable the inhabitants to taste 'real freedom' with basic citizens' rights.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports: The hope for LBA implementation brightened up as Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced her approval for the deal while addressing a meeting at Dinhat of Cooch Behar district in Pashchimbanga on Thursday, said Golam Mostafa, general secretary of the Bangladesh part of Bangladesh-India Enclave Exchange Action Committee.

"We are all the more hopeful as an Indian Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Ministry on Monday submitted an 'unanimous' report recommending passage of the Constitution amendment bill in the house for implementation of the agreement," said Mainul Haque, president of the committee.

Earlier Mamata, also president of Trinamul Congress, was seen as the main barrier to implementation of the agreement despite signing of a protocol by the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during Manmohan's visit to Dhaka on September 6 in 2011.

The protocol was signed in line with 1974 Land Boundary Agreement, popularly known as Mujib-Indira treaty.

As many as 162 enclaves were created on both sides of present India-Bangladesh border during the India-

Pakistan partition of 1947, leaving the enclave people virtually deprived of citizens' rights and basic civic amenities like adequate employment opportunities, infrastructure, educational institutions, electricity and medical facilities.

There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, including 59 in Lalmonirhat, 36 in Panchagarh, 12 in Kurigram and four in Nilphamari districts, and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in Cooch Behar district of Paschimbanga in India.

"We hope to get real freedom with state facilities as the enclave exchange deal is going to be signed soon," said Ashraf Ali, 85, a resident of an Indian enclave in Patgram upazila.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds: Enclave people are eyeing early implementation of enclave exchange agreement as Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her consent on the deal on Thursday.

Visiting Indian enclave Puthimari inside Boda upazila and Garati enclave inside Panchagarh Sadar upazila of the district on Friday, this correspondent saw jubilant people distributing sweetmeats.

"We are now hopeful of implementation of the enclave exchange deal soon as Mamata Banerjee made a declaration on the matter," said Toslim Uddin, chairman of the local union parishad.

"We hope we will get nationality very soon and we will be able to admit our children to schools and colleges without hiding our real location and information," said Sirajul Islam, 55, of Puthimari enclave.

After implementation of enclave exchange deal, the residents will get assistance of law enforcers in time of need, Mofidar Rahman, chairman of Garati enclave, told this correspondent.

So daring despite doing dirty deeds!

Cops mercilessly beat up AL leader for catching them red-handed: All 17 of the outpost in Zianagar closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

All the 17 policemen from Balipara outpost in Zianagar upazila under the district were closed yesterday for seriously injuring a local Awami League (AL) leader.

The victim -- Md Shah Alam Mollick, 45, of Balipara village in the upazila, is organising secretary of 3 No ward unit AL of Balipara union in the upazila. With serious injuries, Shah Alam was admitted to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital on Friday night.

His condition was so bad that he could not say anything clearly to the newsmen at hospital.

"Some cops of Balipara police outpost developed illicit relation with a woman of the area and two cops of the outpost were caught red handed in presence of Shah Alam a few days ago," said Md Moniruzzaman Mridha, secretary of Zianagar upazila unit of AL.

Following a heated exchange between Shah Alam and cops Yunus and Abdul Berek near the outpost on Friday afternoon, the two began to beat up the AL leader. The other cops also beat up Shah Alam with



PHOTO: STAR

Shah Alam Mollick, beaten up by police, being treated at Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

sticks. As Shah Alam ran to a nearby stall to save himself, the cops chased him there, dragged him out and beat him up again.

Informed, Shah Alam's party men rescued him from the spot and took him to hospital.

After this incident, AL and its associate organisations brought out a protest procession and blocked the police outpost.

Later Sadar Circle Assistant Superintendent of Police Abdul Kader Beg and Indurkani Police Station officer in charge (OC) Md Kamruzzaman Talukder rushed to the spot and

brought the situation under control with the help of local AL leaders.

All the 17 cops from the outpost were closed to Pirojpur Police Lines yesterday, said the OC.

"The incident of beating up the man occurred due to a misunderstanding. The alleged policemen were shifted from the outpost. The situation is under control," said Pirojpur Superintendent of Police Md Shah Abid Hossain.

Locals alleged that some cops of the police outpost often tease school going girls but nobody dare protest them.

53,000 went this year

FROM PAGE 1 made the journey alone, the UN refugee agencies says.

In all, some 120,000 people are believed to have embarked on these voyages through the Bay of Bengal since the start of 2012.

With payments ranging from US\$1,600 to US\$2,400 for each passenger, smugglers plying this route are believed to have earned nearly US\$250 million in the last three years, the report adds.

While the majority of people paid smugglers for the journey, there were people who said they were forced into making the voyages, sometimes at gunpoint, in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"Conditions on the smugglers' boats were dire. Survivors consistently described overcrowded conditions and daily rations of one sparse meal and one to two cups of water," it says.

People who asked for more food or tried to use the toilet out of turn were beaten by the armed crew on the deck above.

"An estimated 540 people have reportedly died this year at sea from such beatings, starvation or dehydration, and their bodies thrown overboard," the report mentions.

Rohingyas and Bangladeshis who have arrived in Thailand in recent months have been systematically screened by government teams there to assess if they are victims of human trafficking.

"If found to be victims of trafficking, they are transferred to shelters to facilitate their rehabilitation and investigations of suspected smugglers. UNHCR hopes that this screening can be expanded to an assessment of all international protection needs," the report notes.

Rights watchdogs

FROM PAGE 16 Delawar Hossain Sayedee while two others on the absentia trial of expelled Jamaat member Abdul Kalam Azad.

The tribunal is a specially constituted court set up to bring to account those responsible for grave violations of international law during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Concerns over its statute, rules of procedure, and practices have been raised since its inception, even by international monitors and legal experts, said the rights bodies in a joint statement published on HRW website yesterday.

"Rather than respecting the right to freedom of expression, the ICT has used contempt of court proceedings against some of its critics, and those who are convicted have no right of appeal," said Richard Bennett, Asia-Pacific director at Amnesty International.

"The conviction of Bergman sends a chilling message to journalists and human rights defenders that the ICT will not tolerate fair criticism," he added.

In an apparent attempt to silence criticism, Human Rights Watch, journalists from The Economist and local journalists have been tried for contempt for publishing material critical of some aspects or issues relating to ICT, the statement says.

In its verdict on Bergman, ICT particularly cited the blog post, in which he questioned the number of the dead in the 1971 war. The Bangladeshi government has regularly

stated that three million were killed during the war and ICT has declared the figure as a proven fact. "Some observers have estimated that the number could be closer to 300,000, while still others suggest a range between 300,000 and 3 million," the statement says.

However, the court said the criticism made on the issue of death figure in 1971 in his post on Sayedee's indictment did not constitute any contempt as it did not affect the merit of any of the pending cases before the war crimes tribunals.

It said it had found him guilty of contempt for making offending scandalous comments using derogatory and unfair "words" and "phrases," in the two other articles.

"The issues Bergman raised were all well within the purview of legitimate commentary," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The rights groups pointed out that there was language in the judgment, which was disturbingly vague and allowed ICT broad scope to continue going after its critics. The judgment also contains poorly defined interpretations of what constitutes a legitimate subject for critical reportage on its proceedings, they said.

As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), all of Bangladesh's branches of government authority, including the judiciary, must respect and protect freedom of expression.

More areas to celebrate day of freedom today

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Gaibandha and Noakhali districts and Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur were freed from Pakistan occupation forces on this day in 1971.

In the morning of this day in 1971, brave freedom fighters, aided by allied forces, captured Gaibandha district headquarters as the occupation forces fled the areas after a fierce bombing by pro-liberation forces, reports our correspondent.

A series of bombardment by planes on Gaibandha rail station, Teestamuk railway ferry ghat and important locations made occupation forces helpless. Earlier, freedom fighters damaged all the connecting bridges of the district headquarters, snapping road communications.

On 1971 December afternoon, tank and artillery regiment of allied forces advanced towards Gaibandha through Hili border and reached Pirganj and Palashbari areas by evening. They started shelling on the camps of Pak army that continued overnight. Early next day, the occupation forces fled the areas for Rangpur cantonment.

In the morning, Mahbub Elahi Ranju (Bir Pratik), first entered the district headquarters with his troop. Thousands of people arranged a mass reception to the freedom fighters at Swadhinata Prangon.

Noakhali district also became free from the clutches of Pakistani forces on this day.

People of the district heaved a sigh of relief while enjoyed the taste of freedom after months of fighting, reports our correspondent.

At different times in 1971, the occupation forces as well as the notorious Rajakars committed massacre and looted Sreepur, Ramharitaluk and Guptanka of the district headquarters, Kuripara and Gopalpur of Begumgonj

upazila, and Amishapara of Sonaimuri upazila.

At that time, the occupation forces shot and burnt 150 men, women including children. They torched houses, shops and business establishments. They also took the women to their camp to rape and torture them.

Taking training in the country and in India, the freedom fighters struggled for freedom of the nation.

Heavy gun battles took place at Bamni, Tal Mahmud Hat and 12 No. sluice gate of Companiganj upazila, Udoy Sadhur Hat (known as Odharhat), Karambux of Sadar upazila, Fenakata Pool, Rajganj and Bagadiya of Begumganj upazila.

Many freedom fighters were killed fighting face to face.

Before Noakhali became free on 6 December midnight, failing to resist the freedom fighters, the occupation forces started to leave the Majidde Primary Training Institute (PTI) camp and Begumgonj Technical High School camp for Comilla Cantonment.

Chirirbandar, an upazila of Dinajpur close to India-Bangladesh border also tasted freedom on the same day in 1971, reports our correspondent.

Pakistani troops retreated from their bases in Ranirbandar and Amtoli area in the upazila after a fierce fighting with the freedom fighters and Indian allied forces on December 7, said Miminul Islam, upazila commander of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Command Council.

The freedom fighters later hoisted the national flag near the post office in the upazila.

During the final assault many freedom fighters, including Abdus Sobhan and Nesar Uddin, were killed in the battlefield.

AL man shot in Laxmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Laxmipur

A local leader of ruling Awami League was hit by bullets as a gang opened fire on him at Latipura village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Identified as Omar Faruk, 38, vice-president of Chandraganj union unit AL, he was seriously injured in the attack.

Police said, criminals swooped on Faruk in the area and fired several shots at him while he was going to a local market from his house.

He was rushed to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital in

a critical condition.

While undergoing treatment at the hospital, Faruk told reporters that Jishan, gang leader of local 'Jishan Bahini', waylaid him and sprayed bullets on him at around 8:30am.

Hearing the news, activists of different fronts of the ruling party blocked Laxmipur-Chowmuhani Road for one hour, protesting the attack.

Humayun Kabir, officer in-charge of Chandraganj Police Station, said Jishan was a listed criminal.

Police were raiding different places to arrest him, he said.

BNP leader held after gunfight with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A BNP leader was injured in a gunfight allegedly between police and the members of his group at Katpur Beel in Shyamnagar upazila on Friday night.

The injured was identified as Akter Faruk, 27, son of Ashrafal Haq Sardar of Kashmiri union of the upazila.

Secretary of BNP Kashmiri union's ward 5 unit in the upazila, Akter Faruk is accused in 16 cases, said police.

Three policemen, including a sub-inspector, were injured during the gunfight, they said.

Aminul Islam, officer in-

charge of Shyamnagar Police Station, said a team of police raided the area when a gang of criminals, including Faruk, was holding a secret meeting at about 8:30pm.

Sensing the presence of the police team, the gang members opened fire at law enforcers, prompting them to return the fire which left Faruk bullet-hit and three policemen injured.

The gun battle continued for about half an hour, he said.

Later, the police team arrested Faruk, who was hit by bullets in his legs, while his accomplices managed to flee the scene.

Police also recovered a pipe gun and three bullets

from the spot.

Faruk was undergoing treatment in Shyamnagar health complex under police custody.

He is also wanted by police for attacking a mobile court magistrate, the OC added.

However, Faruk's father claimed that police picked up his son from near his house at about 8:00pm and later fired in his legs, taking him to a lonely spot near Katpur Beel.

Shyamnagar upazila's Kashmiri union unit BNP secretary Oliar Rahman told this correspondent that Faruk was recently expelled from the party on charge of breaking party discipline.

পুঁজিবাজারে বিনিয়োগ শীর্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ

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International Tender Notice

To provide uninterrupted services to our valued customers through on-line branches and different delivery channels like ATM, POS, e-Commerce, Internet Banking, Mobile Banking and Agent Banking and to maintain business continuity & data availability, Dutch-Bangla Bank has undertaken a project to setup two data centers and one DR site with all the sites fully synchronized. Business will run from both the data centers alternatively.

For supply and installation of i) Network equipment (Router, switch, firewall etc.) for new Data Center and existing DC & DRS and ii) DWDM network equipment for the above project, sealed tenders are hereby invited in two envelope system from renowned vendors.

The tender schedule with detailed specifications and terms & conditions will be available from IT Development Division of the Bank during 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from December 10, 2014 to December 24, 2014 at a cost of Tk. 25,000/- and Tk. 10,000/- (pay order in favor of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited) respectively. The expected bidders should have adequate experience of supply and installation of proposed system in at least 03 Banks/Telco Data Centre within last 03 years.

The quotations have to be submitted in the Tender Box at IT Development Division or before December 30, 2014 by 4:00 p.m. The technical and financial evaluation of the offers will be made later on.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers, in part or full without assigning any reason.

Head of IT Development Division