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LAND BOUNDARY DEAL

Bill placing not now

Assam CM slams Modi for exclusion of his state

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The constitution amendment bill to keep Assam out of the implementation of the land boundary agreement with Bangladesh is not likely to come up before India's Rajya Sabha today.

Parliament sources said the bill did not figure in the list of today's business schedule of the Rajya Sabha.

The revised bill to exclude the northeastern state has been vehemently opposed by India's main opposition party Congress in the Rajya Sabha where the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi lacks majority to push it through.

The bill will not come up today as was earlier indicated by Parliamentary Affairs Minister M Venkaiah Naidu last Thursday.

With just a week left for the closure of the budget session of parliament, the bill is unlikely to figure in the Rajya Sabha during this session.

Meanwhile, the chief minister of Assam yesterday charged Narendra Modi with practising "double standards for narrow political gain" by proposing to exclude Assam from the purview of the land swap deal.

"The Prime Minister [Modi] had last year said in Guwahati that the agreement is good for Assam. Now why are you excluding it?"

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Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and coach Chandika Hathurusingha discuss strategy yesterday for the second Test against Pakistan that starts at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow. Story on page 14.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Won't bow down to any pressure

Says PM, wonders why Ban called her

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday wondered why UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon phoned her to learn about a "mere" city corporation election, which the BNP boycotted halfway.

The PM was discussing the UN chief's phone call at the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

The prime minister hinted that BNP might have lobbied UN Assistant Secretary General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco for Ban Ki-moon's phone call, according to several cabinet members.

Now politically bankrupt, the BNP is depending on the foreigners, Hasina said.

The PM added that she would never bow down to anyone under pressure or threat. "I will bow down

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QUAKE-HIT NEPAL

Bangladesh to send 1 lakh tonnes rice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to send one lakh tonnes of rice and adequate quantity of water for the quake-hit people in Nepal on an emergency basis.

The decision came at the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

After taking the decision, the PM told the meeting that Bangladesh would stand

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Nepal for end to search

More than 100 bodies recovered from quake-hit trekking hub

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal has asked foreign countries to wrap up search and rescue operations nine days after a devastating earthquake killed more than 7,300 people, now there is no hope of finding people alive in the rubble.

Dozens of countries sent teams to look for survivors after the Himalayan nation was hit by a 7.8-magnitude quake on April 25, its worst since 1934, but the Nepal government now believes the search and rescue work has been nearly completed.

"They can leave. If they are also specialists in clearing the rubble, they can stay," Rameshwor Dangal, an official at Nepal's home ministry, told Reuters yesterday.

While the official death toll for Nepal rose to 7,365 yesterday, with some 14,000 injured, authorities warned the final tally would be much higher. More than 100 people were also killed in neighbouring India and China. Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala earlier estimated the death toll could reach 10,000.

On Monday, police and local volunteers found the bodies of about 100 trekkers and villagers buried in an avalanche set off by the earthquake in a remote district and were digging through snow and ice for scores more missing.

Many countries have pledged money that will be necessary to rebuild homes, hospitals and historic buildings. Others such as neighboring India

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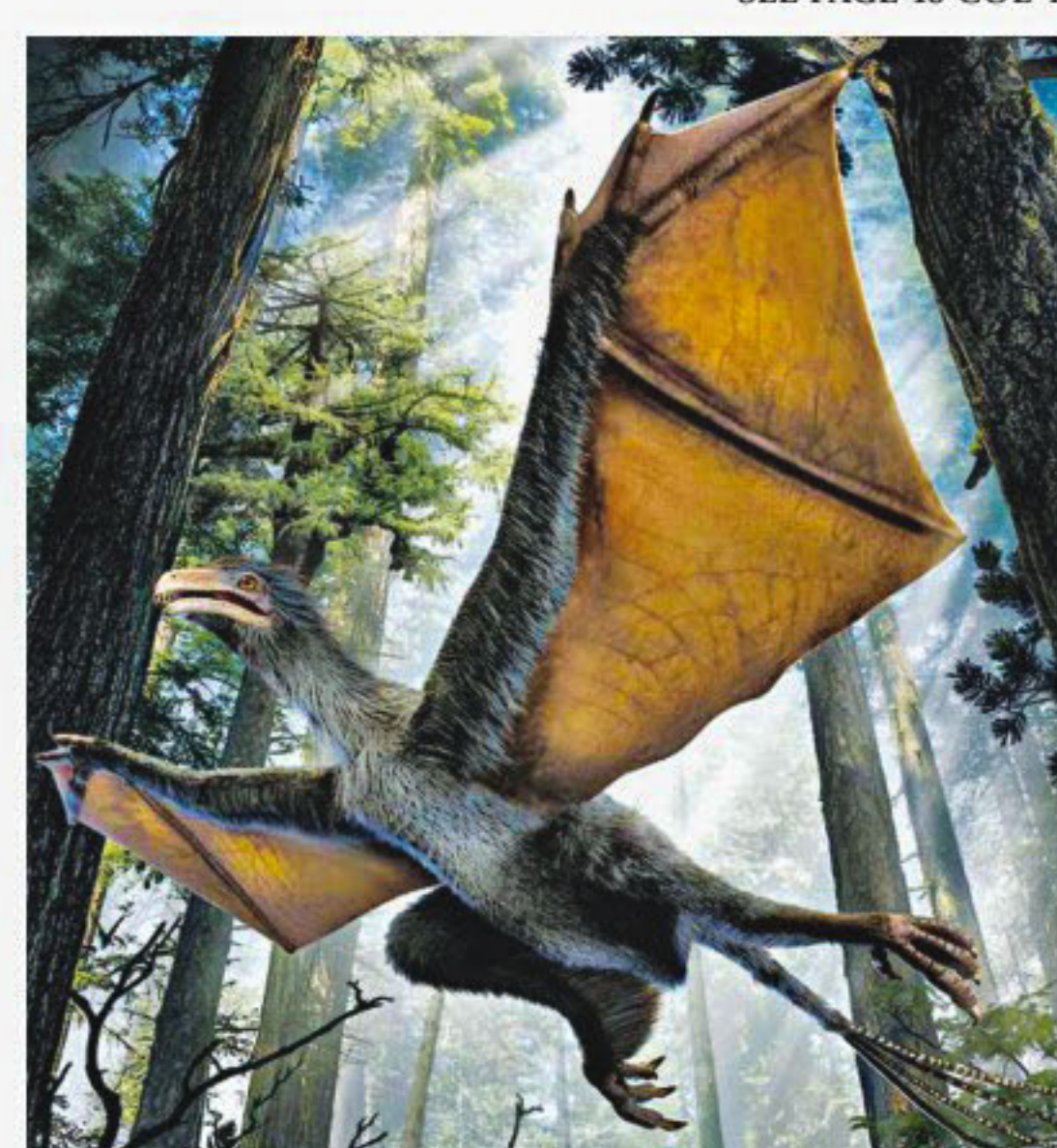
Tiny bat wing dinosaur fossil discovered

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Researchers have announced the discovery of a 160-million-year-old dinosaur fossil, as scientists grapple with what this may mean for the evolution of flight.

Beijing's Chinese Academy of Sciences found the fossils, discovered in Hebei Province, indicated the dinosaur was small, covered in feathers and possessed a large bone extending from its forearms - appearing to support a wing.

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Nothing abnormal

Finds autopsy on Pintu's body; probe committee formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An autopsy found nothing abnormal in the death of BNP leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu who died of "cardiac arrest" on Sunday.

The jail authorities yesterday formed a three-member committee to probe his death. The committee, headed by DIG (prisons) Golam Haider of Dhaka Central Jail, has been asked to submit its report to the authorities by May 7.

The 48-year-old was "brought dead" to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital from Rajshahi Central Jail. He was serving life-term for

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DEATH TOLL
7,365



Nepalese villagers walk near their makeshift tents at Laprak village in Gorkha district yesterday. US transport planes were due to make "an immediate difference" to the aid effort in Nepal yesterday, shuttling supplies and rescue teams to remote areas devastated by an earthquake that killed more than 7,300 people.

PHOTO: AFP

Rural women deprived of land ownership

Possess only 4pc of land, says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite constituting half the country's population, women have effective ownership of only about four percent of land in rural Bangladesh, according to a study by economist Prof Abul Barkat.

Titled "Assessing Inheritance Laws & their Impact on Rural Women in Bangladesh", Barkat's research shows that

women irrespective of their difference in terms of class, religion and ethnic group are largely deprived of their justifiable rights to land.

The study findings were presented yesterday at a seminar on "Deprivation of Women and their rights to land: Inheritance laws in Bangladesh", organised by Association for Land Reform and Development and chaired

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US cops kill 2 at anti-Islam exhibit

REUTERS, Garland, Texas

Texas police shot dead two gunmen who opened fire on Sunday outside an exhibit of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad that was organised by a group described as anti-Islamic and billed as a free-speech event.

Citing a senior FBI official, ABC News identified one of the gunmen as Elton Simpson, an Arizona man who was the target of a terror investigation. FBI agents and a bomb squad were searching Simpson's Phoenix home, ABC said.

Phoenix's KPHO TV reported that the second man lived in the same apartment complex as Simpson, the Autumn

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Congratulations



Our heartfelt congratulations to **Mr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury Rony**, a young and dynamic industrialist of the country, Commerce & Industrial Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League (Chittagong South District), the 2nd son of prominent leader, Presidium Member of Bangladesh Awami League & former MP Late Alhaj Akteruzzaman Chowdhury and younger brother of Mr. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, Honorable MP & State Minister of Land, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for being elected again **Chairman of the Executive Committee of United Commercial Bank Limited.**

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