

Bangladesh accuses Pakistan of breaching 'Delhi agreement' of 1974

14/05/2016 17:57 by admin

Dhaka: Bangladesh today accused Pakistan of breaching the post-1971 liberation war agreement by not taking back thousands of its stranded citizens, affecting the validity of the treaty.

Law Minister Anisul Huq

“Under the 1974 agreement (among Dhaka, new Delhi and Islamabad), Pakistan was obligated to take back its stranded citizens from Bangladesh. They did not fulfil their obligation over the decades,” Law Minister Anisul Huq said at a discussion here.

He said, Bangladesh on the other hand, complied with the treaty allowing the defeated Pakistani soldiers’ repatriation and in no way breached the agreement by bringing to justice Bangladeshi perpetrators of war crimes who carried out atrocities siding with the invading Pakistani troops.

He added that according to the principle of law, if any party violates a treaty, its validity comes into question while Pakistan itself “clearly defied” the agreement by refusing to take back its citizens over the decades.

Thousands of Urdu-speaking Muslims, dubbed as “Biharis”, who migrated to the former East Pakistan after partition in 1947, continued to stay in makeshift homes called Bihari camps in Bangladesh since 1971 and waited for decades to go to Pakistan but the subsequent governments in Islamabad declined to take them.

- PTI