

Cuta continues work abstention
CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) continued their two-hour work abstention for the fourth consecutive day yesterday disrupting the academic activities of the university.

Cuta began their work abstention on Saturday and will continue till Thursday.

They announced the programme demanding immediate dissolution of the newly formed selection boards to appoint teachers through tenure-expired syndicate.

As per the programme, the teachers are not taking any class or performing any official duty from 9:00am to 11:00am.

Armed goons threaten Maj (Retd) Mannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed criminals threatened Bikalpa Dhara candidate for Dhaka-10 by-polls Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan during his election campaign at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar areas yesterday.

Mannan along with the party leaders visited Sher-e-Bangla staff quarters, Pak Bazar, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, and Suhrawardi Hospital as part of his mass contact, but the armed criminals prevented him from carrying out the polls cam-

paign.

In a statement, Abdul Mannan said the ruling party-backed criminals launched attacks on the party leaders and supporters during the election campaign in Ramna-Tejgaon area.

Meanwhile, a group of BNP-backed hoodlums ransacked the election camp of Bikalpa Dhara at Segunbagicha on Monday night.

The armed cadres also forced the party workers to leave the camp.

The Bikalpa Dhara has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission and the Ramna police in this regard.

Meanwhile, Major (Retd) Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury MP had a meeting with Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas at the Workers Party office in the city yesterday.

In the meeting, Rashed Khan Menon assured Mannan of his party's support in the by-election.



PHOTO: STAR
City Awami League President Mohammad Hanif speaks at a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday to protest the attack on Sylhet AL meeting on Monday.

Water purification plant inaugurated at city slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pilot water purification plant was inaugurated at a slum in the city yesterday to ensure supply of safe water for the slum-dwellers.

Dustha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) installed the plant at Bauniabbaad slum in Mirpur with the assistance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) of the USA.

The year-long project will cover 5,064 families in the slum, said a press release.

WHO Representative Han A Heijnen, CDC expert Dr Pavoni Kalorie, Dhaka Wasa Commercial Manager Nurul Huda Mia, DSK Executive Director Dr Dibakar Singh and Programme Director Dr Masudul Quader spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

The speakers said the government spends around Tk 500 crore a year on the treatment of people affected by water-borne diseases.

Such diseases also claim the lives of about 1.25 lakh children each year, they said.

GAS SALE FROM BIBIYANA

Unocal wants guarantee clause in agreement

UNB, Dhaka

The Unocal, an American oil company, wants to insert a guarantee clause into an agreement on gas sale from Bibiyana field that with the change of the government, no change will take place in the agreement, sources said.

This is one of the three major disputes the Unocal and the Petrobangla, the state-run corporation, could not resolve before signing any GPSA (gas purchase and sale agreement) for Bibiyana.

However, both sides at a meeting yesterday agreed to send their views on the issue to the higher authorities to determine whether there should be any guarantee clause.

The US company argued that what is the guarantee that the agreement would not be changed.

or scrapped as it happened in the case of a popular TV channel with the change of the government.

The Unocal negotiators told the Petrobangla officials that they cannot put in several hundred million dollars without a guarantee.

On two other issues -- wheeling charge and timeframe of payment by Petrobangla -- the negotiators from both sides, however, agreed to continue further discussions.

The Petrobangla sought a four percent wheeling charge for carrying the gas to be supplied from the field, having 2.4 TCF (trillion cubic feet) reserve, through the national pipeline.

Sources at Petrobangla said the US oil company agreed to pay 1.5 percent wheeling charge.

The Unocal also wants to have

the right to snap supply of gas from Bibiyana if payment remains unrealised for over five months. Petrobangla wants a seven-month timeframe for payment with interest.

Besides, the Petrobangla wants that the timeframe of payment should be 45 days without interest on receipt of the bill. The US oil company wants it to be 30 days.

The Petrobangla started negotiation with the Unocal for a GPSA early this month after the government approved the Bibiyana development plan with an estimated investment of US\$ 230 million.

As per production sharing contract, the Unocal will solely make the investment and realise the money from Petrobangla during the cost-recovery period by selling gas from the field.