

'Cancel unequal agreements with foreign oil cos'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday demanded punishment to former state minister for energy AKM Mosharrif Hossain and other government officials who are responsible for signing an 'unequal' Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the Niko Resource Limited.

The CPB leaders also demanded cancellation of all 'unequal' agreements with the foreign oil companies who are engaged in petroleum exploration in Bangladesh.

They also called for taking action against the Niko for their 'negligence' that led to Tengratia gas field blow-out.

The government should also realise compensation from the Canada-based company, said CPB presidium member Abu Zafar at a rally in the city.

Although the Bapex (Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company) has the expertise to conduct drilling in Tengratia gas field, the government engaged the Niko to do the job, he added.

"We want compensation from the Niko for the affected people of Chatak and building the roads that were damaged in that area due to blow-out in the gas field," said Mahbulul Alam, president of CPB city unit.

Ahsan Habib Lavlu, Ruhin Hossen Prince and Samsul Alam Sajjon also spoke at the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

Children perform at a get-together styled as 'Patha Shishu Milon Mela' at the Shishu Academy in the city yesterday.

Help us lead a better life

Street children appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Street children at a get-together yesterday made an appeal to government and non-government organisations to help better their life.

They also called for integrating them in the mainstream of life facilitating their participation in the development activities.

The get-together styled as 'Patha Shishu Milon Mela' was organised jointly by Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD), Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) and Plan Bangladesh at the

Shishu Academy in the city. It was presented and conducted by the children themselves.

In their presentations, the children said they cannot but take any kind of hazardous jobs for bread, and remain always exposed to sexual exploitation and getting involved in anti-social activities.

They said they live a bestial life in deprivation and disgrace without proper food, shelter, healthcare, education and affection.

They also narrated their deplorable state of life and hardest realities they undergo everyday just for survival without parental care and affection.

Around 10 percent of seven crore children in the country are street children, said the PSTC Executive Director Milon Bikash Pal.

"There should not be any difference between street children and children with homes and parents," Country Director of Plan Bangladesh Edwrad Thomas Espey said, adding, "They are the future of the country."

The government along with other interested organisations and individuals must make collective efforts to improve the lives of street children so that they can get their place in the society in future, he added.

All children are valuable although some of them are deprived, said Shishu Academy Chairperson Prof Zubaida Gulshan Ara.

She said the government is planning to institute a child rights commission.

It is a collective obligation, not an individual one, to better the condition of street children, said Zinnat Afroz of Plan Bangladesh.

The ASD and PSTC work with 1,

500 and 700 street children respectively in the capital to improve their lives with fund from Plan Bangladesh.

ASD Executive Director Shihabuddin Ahmed also spoke at the get-together attended by some 500 hundred street children from different parts of the city.

11-yr boy bailed, not released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Eleven-year-old Milon Howlader, who has been languishing in Khulna District Jail for over a year, has obtained bail, but he is still behind bars due to legal complexities.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Kabita Khanam on Thursday granted Milon bail. But the innocent boy was not released until yesterday.

His counsel Advocate Taslima Khatun Chanda, a leader of the Khulna chapter of Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity, told The Daily Star the bail order did not reach jail authorities as some legal formalities were not complete.

Milon, son of Yunus Howlader of Gobarchaka main road, was falsely implicated and arrested in the Awami League (AL) leader Manzur Morshed Labu murder case on

May 2 last year.

The investigation officer in the case, sub-inspector Narhu Gopal of Sonadanga Police Station had received a bribe of Tk 2 lakh from the real accused, Milon Shaikh, and pressed charges against Milon.

A police probe had detected his misconduct and he was fired from service on March 15 this year.

BFUJ, DUJ protest remarks of SQ Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday condemned the 'indecent' remarks on journalists by SQ Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to the prime minister.

In a joint statement, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Shah Alamgir called on Chowdhury to make his apologies to the journalists for his 'indecent and provocative' comments.

They also demanded his removal from the post of adviser as well as the BNP.