



PHOTO: STAR

Swadhin Bangla Garments Sramik-Karmochari Federation stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting the government's failure to protect rights of the garments workers in WTO ministerial meet in Hong Kong.

Jubo Parishad Pirojpur body formed

The convening committee of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad Pirojpur chapter was formed at a meeting at the Advocate SS Halder Bhaban in Pirojpur recently with Sadullah Liton in the chair, says a press release.

Md Bazlur Rahman Mintu was elected convenor and Tapan Saha, Shahidul Islam and Syeed Sheikh were made joint convenors.

China adds pollution to list of exports

REUTERS, Beijing

China's environmental woes spilled visibly over its borders as a toxic slick flowed into Russia in December, but exports of pollution are becoming as common as sales of cheap T-shirts for the economic powerhouse.

The country's leaders are only starting to grapple with the political fall-out at home after years of pursuing economic expansion at almost any price.

Dirty or scarce water, choking air and toxic factory effluent are some of the common problems fouling China's environment and its neighbours.

Yet the international impact of China's problems have barely registered as cause for concern for Beijing's leadership. It took days for China to notify Russia that an explosion at a petrochemical plant sent 100 tons of benzene compounds pouring down a tributary to the Amur.

Smog carried over the Pacific to the west coast of the United States, acid rain in South Korea and Japan, and destruction of forests as far away as Africa. These are among other unwelcome exports that experts say might cloud China's hopes of being seen as a responsible

global power.

"At the moment, China's top leaders have not realised how important, in terms of international relations, environmental conflicts can be," said Ma Zhong, vice-dean of the School of Environment and Natural Resources, at Renmin University.

"They are more concerned about economic and social relationships." For China's neighbours, the three are inextricably linked.

Nearly half the world's population lives in river basins which have their source in China, according to Leo Horn, an adviser to Britain's Department for International Development.

Among them are some of Asia's great rivers, such as the Mekong and the Indus. Although these have so far escaped the worst of the pollution plaguing domestic waterways like the Yangtze, Beijing has already been feuding with its neighbours for years over plans for dams. Worse might follow.

"These are not the most polluted in the country ... but the sheer scale of our economic expansion means that in remote areas, activities will increase and problems will get worse," said Ma Jun, author of the book 'China's Water Crisis.'



PHOTO: STAR

Jalalabad Foundation forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday appealing to the well-to-do people for warm clothes for the poor.

President, PM FM greet Muslim leaders

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan have greeted their counterparts of Muslim countries on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

In his messages to the Muslim leaders, the President expressed his confidence that the happy occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha would further unite the Muslim Ummah to work for continued advancement and glory of Islam to the larger benefit of mankind.

Khaleda, in her messages, hoped that the divine blessings of the happy occasion would inspire the Muslim Ummah to further consolidate and deepen their bonds of brotherhood and cooperation in the greater interest of Islam.

In his messages, Morshed Khan also expressed the conviction that the teachings of holy Eid-ul-Azha would inspire the Muslim Ummah to work together for unity, solidarity and cooperation among themselves.

They also wished their counterparts good health, happiness and long life and for the brotherly people of those countries for continued peace, progress and prosperity.

CenCL Eid programmes

Concord Entertainment Co Ltd (CenCL), an entertainment company and owner of five amusement parks, has taken new plan for people to enjoy their Eid holiday at the parks, says a press release.

Concerts, dance shows, acrobat shows, raffle draw and special discount included in these facilities.

The noted music personalities will have their concerts at these venues.

Special arrangements for security and transport for the people interested to visit these places with family have been undertaken in coordination with the law enforcement agencies.