

Open pit mining in Phulbari to harm agriculture, industry

Rangpur-Dinajpur businessmen tell meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Businessmen of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur yesterday strongly opposed the idea of open pit coal mining in Phulbari, saying that the project will threaten growing agriculture industry in the region and eventually prove as an impracticable venture.

At a meeting on 'Development of Greater Rangpur-Dinajpur: Opportunities and Obstacles' organised by Greater Rangpur-Dinajpur Business Development Forum, they suggested taking opinion of the affected people before taking initiative of implementing Phulbari coalmine that would cover at least four upazilas of Dinajpur district.

Phulbari coalmine, which was not a stipulated agenda of the meeting held at the auditorium of Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, turned out as the

focus of discussion as several speakers spoke on coal extraction from Phulbari coalmine applying open pit method.

At least 200 industries have been closed in last ten years due to fund constraints, the speakers said, adding that Phulbari coalmine now seems to threaten the promising agro-based industries in northern region.

Launching of the open coal mine will need at least 6,000 hectares of land and it will result in dislocating about 4,70,000 people including 50,000 indigenous people, they said.

They expressed apprehension that the coal project will lead to decline in the agricultural products including rice in Dinajpur and render thousands of people jobless.

The project will also create serious environmental problems including lowering of the groundwater level while half of Phulbari

township may have to be shifted elsewhere, if coal is extracted using open pit method, the speakers said.

Referring to his experience of visiting open and underground coalmines, Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Md Rafiqul Islam said underground mining is less hazardous.

Neighbouring India is also extracting coal with underground method although it has vast land areas, he said.

He urged the authorities concerned to consider the fate of affected people of four upazilas and future employment before implementing the project.

Questioning the role of several government officials about Phulbari coalmine, speakers said the submitted report has evaded important issues like proper management of ground water, treatment of water that would be pol-

luted by the mine and relocation of a large number of people.

FBCCI President Anisul Haque in his speech as chief guest suggested forming a committee to assess the effects and aftermath if Phulbari coalmine is implemented in Dinajpur.

Dinajpur Municipality Chairman Md Shafiqul Haque Chhutu said a few organisations are spending money to motivate people in the district about the open pit coalmine.

At least 572 million tonnes of coal is reserved in Phulbari coal bed. Brig Gen Masud Ali Khan, Osman Goni, president of Thakurgaon Chamber, Shohel Parvez of Nilphamari Chamber and Aminul Bari of Jyppurhat Chamber, spoke among others, at the meeting presided over by Greater Rangpur-Dinajpur Business Development Forum President Md Nazrul Islam.

Road blocked, Tamim's resignation demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Aggrieved people of Phulbari, Nawabganj and Birampur upazilas in Dinajpur district yesterday blocked a road at Aftabganj in Nawabganj upazila and demanded resignation of Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Dr Tamim for his controversial role over Phulbari coalmine.

Hearing that a meeting was arranged at Shapnapuri under Nawabganj upazila in Dinajpur to motivate people about open pit coalmine, thousands people took to the street in the morning.

Phulbari Circle Assistant Superintendent of Police Md Atiqur Rahman Miah rushed to the spot and persuaded the demonstrators to withdraw the blockade by assuring them that the meeting will not discuss the coalmine issue.

Later at a street meeting at Nimtola Moar, the protesters vowed to foil any conspiracy against the people of Phulbari.

Tension is prevailing in the area.

Release Hasina, announce polls schedule

Razzak says in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Awami League Presidium member Abdur Razzak yesterday demanded release of party chief Sheikh Hasina considering her sickness and allowing her to go abroad for better treatment.

Razzak called upon the Election Commission to declare schedule for parliamentary election and urged the government to lift emergency immediately.

He was addressing in a memorial meeting for three Awami League leaders of Gaibandha district. They are former president of party's Gaibandha district unit and former

parliament member Lutfar Rahman, former lawmaker Abu Taleb Mia and Mohammed Khaled, former president of district Awami League. The meeting was held on Gaibandha Shaheed Meenar premise.

Razzak said the three leaders fought throughout their life for establishing democracy and good governance in the country. Presided over by former parliament member advocate Shah Jahangir Kabir, the meeting was addressed by, among others, AL central leader Fazley Rabbi, Khairuzzaman Liton, Maj Gen (Rtd) Amsha Ameen and district AL secretary Abdur Bakker Siddique.

CARMICHAEL COLLEGE EX-STUDENTS' REUNION Function boycotted as Jamaat man invited

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A large number of former students of Rangpur Carmichael College boycotted a reunion at the college on Friday as alleged war criminal and former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Moulana Abdul Aziz was invited as special guest.

They protested and left the pavilion as soon as the announcer invited Aziz on the Dias. At a press conference at a local hotel yesterday, they condemned organisers of the reunion ceremony for inviting Aziz.

The press conference was addressed by, among others, former chairman of Rangpur municipality Mohammad Afzal, former

vice-presidents (VP) of Carmichael College students union Enayetur Rahim Khondker and Shohedul Khurrom, freedom fighter Mullah Mostafiz, Abul Bahsar, Atiar Hosen, drama personality Biplob Prasad, Abdul High, Dr. Rezaul Hoque and Prof. Reza Sha Toufiqur Rahman.

Mohammad Afzal said, "Abdul Aziz is a known war criminal. We can not attend a function where he (Abdul Aziz) is the chief guest."

A two-day reunion of former students of Carmichael College began on the campus on Friday. The organisers earlier decided that no leader of any political party would be invited to the function, sources said.

Tea processing factory opens in Panchagarh

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Karotoa Tea Processing Factory was inaugurated at Kazipara in Panchagarh Sadar upazila yesterday.

Brigadier Mosharaf Hossain psc, chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board, was the chief guest at the function chaired by Kamal Uddin Haider, president of Karotoa Tea Association. Panchagarh Deputy Commissioner Md. Hafiz Uddin and Police Superintendent Harun-Or-Rashid were special guests.

Among others, Hamidul Haque Khakon, convener of Uttar Banga Tea Garden Association and Iqbal Kaiser Mintu, president of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries also spoke.

Brigadier Mosharaf told the function that setting up of the tea processing factory will encourage small tea growers in northern districts. Tea Board has already achieved success in promoting tea cultivation in small scale in northern district.

Seventeen small tea gardens have come up in the area, the speakers said.

Tk 2.2 lakh mugged in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Armed miscreants looted Tk 2,20,000 from two persons on Sylhet-Golapganj road yesterday afternoon.

Shafiq Uddin was going to Sylhet city from Beanibazar. Six miscreants on three motorbikes stopped his autorickshaw at Hilalpur, stabbed him and took away Tk 2,00,000. They also snatched Tk 20,000 from Bashir Uddin, who accompanied Shafiq Uddin.

The two have been admitted to a private clinic in the city.

A case had been lodged with Golapganj police station but none could be arrested, police said.



Huge quantities of paddy are arriving in markets in Bogra as Boro harvest is going on in full swing. The photo was taken yesterday.

'Retain Patuakhali-1, Barguna-3 constituencies'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Local people including political leaders have protested the proposed delimitation of Patuakhali-1 and Barguna-3 constituencies. Patuakhali-1 now comprises Patuakhali Sadar, Mirjagonj and Dumki upazilas and Barguna-3 comprises Amtali and Taltali upazilas.

The Election Commission (EC) on April 29 unveiled a draft delimitation of 133 constituencies in the country, along with Patuakhali-1 and Barguna-3.

As per the proposed delimitation, Dumki upazila has been deleted from Patuakhali-1 and added to Patuakhali-2 (Baufal) constituency.

On the other hand, Barguna-3 constituency has been abolished and the area has been added to Baguna-1 (Barguna Sadar).

With abolition of Barguna-3, Barguna district will have two constituencies instead of three earlier.

Local elite in Dumki at a press conference in Patuakhali on Thursday demanded retention of the present area of Patuakhali-1 constituency.

HM Anwar Hossain, president of Dumki Press Club, read out a written statement at the conference, also addressed by Patuakhali district Jatiya Party secretary Md Zafor Ullah, former chairman of Angaria Union Parishad (UP) Abul Hossain Abu Mia, former chairman of Labukhali UP Anwar Hossain Howlader, Dumki traders association president Abdus Salam and Abul Kalam Azad.

They said Dumki upazila was created in 1998 by taking areas from Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

The speakers said they will submit a written objection to EC regarding this.

Over 100 members of local elite including former lawmaker and political leaders in a written state-

ment on Wednesday demanded that the Barguna-3 constituency be retained. Signatories to the statement included former lawmakers Mofiz Uddin Talukder and Abdul Mojib Mollik, Awami League (AL) leader Golam Sarwar Forkan, BNP leader advocate Mohsin, Amtali municipality chairman Nazmul Ahsan Nannu, advocate MA Qader Mia, advocate Mostafizur Rahman Babul, Nurul Islam Sanu and Mokbul Ahmed Khan.

Dinajpur doctor commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A doctor of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital (DMCH) allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan at his dormitory Friday evening, police said yesterday.

The victim was identified as Dr. Rabiul Islam, 32, son of Md. Monsur Ali, of Chilahatti village in Domar upazila of Nilphamari. He was assistant register of surgery department.

Quoting witnesses and colleagues, police said Dr. Rabiul's roommates saw him hanging from a ceiling fan Friday evening. They rushed him to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Mark of hanging was found in his neck, police said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউট
১২৫/এ, দারুস সালাম, মিরপুর রোড, ঢাকা-১২১৬
সংখ্যা: জগই/রক্ষণ-৯৮/২০০৭/১১৪৩
১৭ বৈশাখ ১৪১৫
৩০ এপ্রিল ২০০৮

বিষয়ঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন

দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকায় গত ২৭-৪-২০০৮ তারিখে প্রকাশিত তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়বাহিনী জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউটের জন্য ফটোকপিয়ার ও কোলন টাইপ কম্পিউটার ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে গত ২২-৪-২০০৮ তারিখের NIMC/Maint:98/2007/1130 সংখ্যক দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে নিম্নলিখিত সংশোধন করা হয়েছে।

12.	Tender last selling date	: 11-5-2008 up to 4.30pm
13.	Tender closing date & time	: 12-5-2008 at 12.00 noon
14.	Tender opening date & time	: 12-5-2008 at 12.30pm

এই সংশোধনীটি দরপত্র দিলেবের অংশ হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

অরজিৎ কুমার বিশ্বাস
রক্ষণ প্রকৌশলী
জিডি-২১১১
দুরাঃ ৮০৩১০৬৫

Directorate of Continuing Education
Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology BUET

Short Course on
Launch Accident in Bangladesh and its Mitigation

07-08 June 2008 02:30pm - 08:30pm 2 days

The Directorate of Continuing Education (DCE), BUET is pleased to announce that a short course on the above title will be held during 07-08 June, 2008 organized for the professionals working in the Maritime Sector.

The topics that will be covered in the course are i) Accident data analysis, ii) Safe planning for marine transportation, iii) Current ordinance and regulations on inland ship design and operation, iv) Ship design criteria, v) Ship stability and stability booklet, vi) Weather and crowding effect on ship, vii) Navigational and engineering safety aspects, viii) Case studies, etc.

No of seats : 40

Participants: The short course is designed specially for Naval Architects, Marine Engineers, Master Mariners, Regulatory Personnel and Administrators, Inland Water Transport Planners, Ship Surveyors, Ship Owners, Port Administrators and Operators.

Application in plain paper with full particulars stating academic qualifications and experiences should reach the Director, Directorate of Continuing Education (DCE), BUET on or before 31st May 2008. Detailed information can be obtained from the office of the DCE.

Course Fee :Tk. 3,000.00 per person, payable by Bank Draft / Pay Order/Crossed Cheque in favour of Director, BRTC, BUET

Course Coordinator:
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director (ACE), RHD
Road Network Improvement & Maintenance Project-I
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

Memo No. PBRMCM-1/1438 Date: 28-04-2008

Road Network Improvement & Maintenance Project-I (RNIMP-I)
[ADB Loan No 1920-BAN(SF) and OPEC Loan No. 916 (P)]
Performance Based Routine Road Maintenance Contract Addendum and Corrigendum No. 3-Dated 28th April 2008

This addendum and corrigendum No. 3 dated 28th April 2008 is issued pursuant to Cl 8 and Cl 22 of Section 1: Instructions to bidders of the bidding documents and shall form a part of the bidding and contract documents for the above contract.

The deadline for submission of bids is hereby extended till 19th May 2008. Accordingly, following amendments shall be incorporated in the bidding documents:

Section 2: Instructions to Bidders

- ITB 22.1, Page 2-4
The deadline of bid submission shall be:
Date: 19.05.2008
Time: 12.00hrs BST
- ITB 25.1, Page 2-4
The bid opening date & time shall be:
Date: 19.05.2008
Time: 14.30hrs BST

Invitation for bid issued vide Memo No. 677 dated 25.02.2008.

- Para 16
The bid documents last selling date & time shall be 18th May 2008 up to 17.00hrs BST.

All other terms and conditions of the bidding documents shall remain unchanged.
All purchasers of bidding documents are requested to acknowledge receipt of this document by signing and returning the attached acknowledgement slip.

Md Firoz Khan Noon
Project Director (ACE), RHD
RNIMP-I
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

GD-2065

Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd.
T K Bhaban (13th Floor) 13, Kawran Bazar Dhaka-1215

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

SEALED TENDERS containing "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer" in 2 (two) separate envelopes are hereby invited by the undersigned from reputed Manufacturer of Passenger Lifts or their authorized Agents in Bangladesh for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 4 (four) Nos. 1350kg Passenger Lift" for 20-storied shopping-cum-office building for Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. at 35, Topkhana Road, Dhaka.

- Documentary evidence to prove that the tenderer has at least 7 (seven) years experience in Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning and after-sales service and maintenance of the offered brand of lifts in Bangladesh.
- Attested Photocopies of valid Agency Certificate/Agreement from the respective manufacturers of Passenger Lifts.
- Attested Photocopies of the valid ABC contractory & supervisory electrical license.
- Attested Photocopies of the valid Trade License, upto date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate.
- Attested photocopies of completion certificates & work order for minimum 5 nos. 1.75m/sec speed 1000 kg capacity lift in multi-storied building in Bangladesh of the same brand and origin which the tenderer intends to offer for this tender.
- Attested photocopies of completion certificate for minimum 20 nos. lift of the same brand and origin which the tenderer intends to offer for this tender.
- Documentary evidence (catalogue) to prove that the manufacturer of the offered brand lifts has minimum 3.0m/sec capacity lift as standard product.
- Financial Solvency Certificate from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh indicating OD limit, if any from the applicant's Bankers.

Tenderers without having the required eligibility as stated above need not apply for issuance of Tender Documents.

Tender documents will only be issued to the permitted eligible tenderers. Tender Document will be issued from the office of the Accounts Department of Fareast Life Insurance Co. Ltd. on cash payments of Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only (non-refundable) from 04.05.2008 to 24.05.2008 during office hours.

The Tenderers shall have to submit an earnest money minimum 2.5% (two point five percent) of the bid amount in favour of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule bank along with the Technical Offer. Tenders submitted without Earnest Money shall be rejected outright.

For any clarification regarding and submission of Tender, the tenderers may contact the Office of the Consultant, BCL-DECON Consortium Ltd. (Attn: Arch. Masum Kabir/Engr. Mushtaq Ahmed) at (i) House No. 95A, Road No. 4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Phone: 9862713 or (ii) House No. 86, Road No. 9a, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Phone: 9118013).

Tenders will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 12:30 hours on 25.05.2008 and the Offers will be opened at 14:30 hours on the same day in presence of tenderers who wish to be present. Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
Managing Director