



Outgoing British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury calls on Awami League acting President Zillur Rahman, left, and Adviser to BNP chairperson Brig Gen (Retd) Hannan Shah, right, at their respective offices in the city yesterday.



DU students stage a demonstration in front of the Aparajeo Bangla yesterday protesting Chevron's seismic survey at Lawachhara Reserve Forest.

DU students protest seismic survey

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday staged demonstration on the campus demanding halt to the ongoing 3D seismic survey by US oil company Chevron Bangladesh at Lawachhara Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar.

With black flags in hands, students of DU unit of 'Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Chhatra Sangram Parishad' formed a human chain at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla at 11:30am and held a rally to press home their demand.

Student leaders at the rally said biodiversity of the rare forest is being destroyed gradually and wildlife is in danger following frequent explosion due to the 3D seismic survey by Chevron.

Local people are passing days in panic as the explosions jolted the area violently that damaged many structures including their living homes, they added.

They apprehended that wildlife will decline drastically within a short period if the explosions continue in the forest.

They said they would go for tough programme if the government does not take effective steps to halt the survey immediately.

Founding president of the organisation Advocate Abed Reza and DU unit President Ahsanul Haque Jasim spoke at the rally.

Pak NDU team in city

A 16-member delegation of National Defence University (NDU) of Pakistan arrived in Dhaka yesterday in a five-day goodwill visit, says an ISPR press release.

During the visit they will call on president, chief of naval staff, chief of air staff, principal staff officer of Armed Forces Division, defence secretary and chief of general staff of Bangladesh Army.

They will also visit National Defence College and Defence Services Command and Staff College as well as different bases of Bangladesh Air Force.

SEISMIC SURVEY AT LAWACHHARA RESERVE FOREST No significant negative impact on biodiversity

Claims Chevron chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chevron Bangladesh yesterday claimed that its three-dimensional seismic survey has no significant negative impact on the rich biodiversity of Lawachhara reserve forest and rejected its involvement in the recent bush fire.

The claim was made by Steve Wilson, president of Chevron Bangladesh, at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) in the capital.

He hoped that the preliminary survey will be completed by the end of this month without causing any significant negative impact on

the forest. "We are conducting the survey in 15 square kilometer area and only 14-16 percent of the total forest is being surveyed for gas exploration," Wilson said, adding, "We will continue the survey in the forest area."

"Chevron has conducted such high-tech 3D seismic survey in different parts of the world rich in biodiversity," he said while giving a power point presentation on the survey.

He promised that if gas is found in the forest area, Chevron will not dig any well there, and extract the gas applying other method.

Wilson said due to special

nature of the forest, Chevron was very cautious about the surveying of the area and conducted a two-day training programme for its workers so that they could work very cautiously in the forest.

He also said for getting a clear picture of gas reserve in the area, it is not possible to exclude the forest from the survey.

A total of 1200 small holes have been drilled so far and another 9000 holes will be made in the forest area for the survey, he added.

About the fire on April 26, Wilson said the workers were not allowed to bring any food or firebox with them in the forest, so the cause of fire is not still clear.

"Tourists and other local individuals also visit the area frequently and we think that the fire could originate from a cigarette butt thrown by any individuals while visiting the forest," he added.

About the fire Petrobangla Chairman Jamal Ahmed, who was also present at the press conference, said small fire in the forest at the end of the summer is a common phenomenon due to dry and crisp leaves in the forest.

There was also a similar fire in the forest on the following day, he added.

"It was reported in the media that few houses cracked due to explosion, but there is no relation between explosion and the cracks. It is very normal for mud-made wall to develop crack in dry season," said the Petrobangla chief.



Petrobangla Chairman Jamal Ahmed speaks at a press conference on 'Chevron's 3D seismic survey' at his office in the city yesterday. On his left is Chevron's Bangladesh President Steve Wilson.

Political stability a must for socio-economic development Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the country needs political stability and exercise of healthy democracy for its socio-economic development.

They also said reforms are needed not only in politics or political parties, but also in the government administration.

The discussion titled 'Bangladesh Towards Realistic Change: Challenges and Hopes' was organised by Advanced Bangladesh Centre for Development (ABCD) at the National Press Club.

Speaking as chief guest, former adviser and Editor of the Independent Mahabubul Alam said: "Political stability is needed for the country, otherwise there will be no development."

He said, "Reforms are needed in the administration as well as in the education system of the country. It should not be limited to politics only. We need positive change towards development."

The former adviser urged the government to strengthen its local governments for achieving sustainable development.

Former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Dr

Jashimuddin Ahmed said: "Long-term plans are needed for the country's change towards development. Short-term plans would be viable for the country which I have seen in the last 37 years."

Associate professor of Comilla University Mohammad Shahidul Islam presented a keynote paper in the meeting.

Chairman of Buddhist Department at Dhaka University Prof Shukomol Barua and Editor of the New Nation Mustafa Kamal Mazumder also spoke at the programme with former professor of Chittagong University Ahmed Parvez in the chair.

Ensure workers' financial, health security for better return

Prof Muzaffer tells discussion

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday said financial and health security of workers need to be ensured, as their satisfaction is important to boost more production.

"Investment in human resources always gives you a better return than investment in machines," said the TIB chairman.

Dr Muzaffer was addressing a discussion organised by Bangladesh Institution of Diploma

Engineers (IDEB) at its auditorium in the city.

IDEB arranged the discussion marking International Labour Day (May Day). IDEB General Secretary Nazrul Islam and Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud addressed the discussion with IDEB President Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan in the chair.

"Taking bank loans, our entrepreneurs become busy buying cars and homes. Then they procure machinery. Our workers remain neglected. That's why, production in the country cannot reach the

expected level," he added.

Prof Muzaffer said the industrialists and government must realise one thing that it is not machine but workers who make production.

He called on the industry owners to ensure economic and health security of the workers by setting up permanent clinic in every industrial area as only a few mobile health services are not enough.

The TIB boss said female workers in garment industries are facing the worst health hazards, suggesting that adequate number of female doctors must be made

available there.

Prof Muzaffer further said there are some occupation-related diseases like TB and asthma. Mill owners must have a clear knowledge about such diseases that make the major workers victims.

Besides, he said workers do not have any arrangement for recreation and nutrition in their factories.

He praised the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) for its initiative to sell rice at a subsidised rate.

Govt advice to expat workers

UNB, Dhaka

Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment has once again urged the Bangladesh workers to upgrade their status in their host countries, particularly in the Gulf region.

The workers must always take advantage of opportunities such as amnesties that are announced from time to time by local authorities, a spokesman at the ministry said yesterday.

He said: "It has come to the notice of the ministry that workers are sometimes not doing so, and placing themselves at risk of deportation at a time when all Gulf countries are tightening their regulations in connection with expatriate labour."

The spokesman meanwhile confirmed that the outflow of workers is continuing unabated.

During the first four months of the current year, nearly 300,000 persons have been cleared for foreign employment, he said. "This is another record."

Workers Party against inclusion of army in talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday opposed the inclusion of army in the dialogue.

At a meeting presided over by party President Rashed Khan Menon, the politburo said the army is only helping the government and they have no political ambition.

"It said the pre-dialogue between the advisers and the political parties could not create any confidence among the people about the election."

So the government should hold the formal dialogue declaring specific agenda, it added.

The politburo also rejected the delimitation of constituencies saying it will make the election uncertain.

Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas, politburo members Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Nurul Hasan, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Shaheedul Islam, Iqbal Kabir Zahid, Mahamudul Hasan Manik, Azizur Rahman and Nur Mohammad were present at the meeting, says a press release.

WVA executives

The election of Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) for the year 2008-09 was held recently, says a press release.

The elected board members are: Anisa Haq -- president; Ifat Siddiky, Bulu Hasem and Nasreen Huq -- vice-president; Mustary Quasem -- general secretary; Reyhana Ashraf -- treasurer; Rahat Zaman -- joint secretary; and Nusrat Khaled -- joint treasurer.



International Union of Architects (UIA) President Gaetan Siew calls on Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

10 KCC staffs suspended on extortion charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ten officials and employees of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) have been suspended on extortion charges.

Of them, eight were sued in

extortion cases filed with Khulna Sadar Police Station.

KCC Secretary Kazi Faizur Rahman said the accused officials and employees have been absconding since the arrest of Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman on November 2 last year.

The suspension orders were issued on Sunday afternoon, as they did not report for duties in spite of frequent reminders.

The suspended officials and employees are Public Relations Officer Sarder Abu Taher, Executive Engineer Mashuazzaman, Administrative Officer Maruf Al Rashid, Assistant Accounts Officer S M Abdul Wadud, Assistant Accounts Officer Sheikh Abdul Ahad, Chief Tax Assessor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, Personal Assistant to KCC Mayor Khan Isharat Ali, Personal Secretary to Mayor Shafigul Hasan Didar, LD Assistant (property section) Golam Mostafa and Secretary of Ward-24 office Md Abdul Baker.

The accused KCC employees will be sacked for their failure to reply satisfactorily to show cause notices already served upon them as per rule, said the KCC secretary.

Telecast of Shikkhar Chalchitra' begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will start the telecast of 'Shikkhar Chalchitra', a series of education programmes today.

The programme will showcase the overall education scenario of the country.

The first episode of the programme will start at 6:20pm today where prominent educationists and literacy experts will take part.

Channel i will telecast the programme two days a week, on every Tuesday and Thursday.

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Impress Telefilm Limited, Channel i and Shushashoner Jonney Nagorik (Shujan) have jointly produced the programme.

Agreement to provide eye care services in 3 dists

ORBIS International, Bangladesh and Islamia Eye Hospital recently signed an agreement to provide comprehensive eye care services to the people of the country's three peripheral districts -- Jamalpur, Naogaon and Barisal, says a press release.

ORBIS International will support Islamia to set up a permanent infrastructure for eye care services in the districts to make eye care accessible, affordable and available for the underserved community in the country.

Initially, the eye care centre will be established in Jamalpur to provide standard secondary-level eye care services utilising high-quality equipment and expert ophthalmic team of Islamia.

The services will include refraction, detailed eye examination, medical treatment and cataract surgery.

After the successful implementation of the project in Jamalpur, the same model will be launched in two other peripheral districts.

Sources said through this project, around 1,01,085 patients will be examined, 80,400 will receive medical treatment and 26,200 will receive cataract surgeries of these three districts in five years.

At present, some 5,50,000 cataract and 60,00,000 refractive error patients in the country need immediate treatment to restore their eyesight.

Film show to raise fund for cancer-hit college student

DU CORRESPONDENT

In order to raise fund for the treatment of a cancer-affected college student, a three-day film show will begin at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium of Dhaka University (DU) today.

Amit Lal, a student of Sheikh Borhanuddin Post Graduate College and only son of Murad Lal, a fourth-class employee of DU, has been suffering from stomach cancer.

A group of DU students under the banner of "Dhaka University Family" organised the show to raise fund for the treatment of Amit. Around Tk 10 lakh will be needed for his treatment.

A total of 13 local and foreign movies will be screened at the function.

The organisers urged students of DU to watch movies at the programme and extend their helping hands for Amit.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider will formally inaugurate the film show.



Nishat made Lion dist governor

Nishat Parveen Huq has been elected district governor of Lions District 315-B1 for 2008-09 at the delegate session of the 12th Annual District Convention recently, says a press release.

Nishat, principal of Morning Glory School, Savar Cantonment, has been working for the distressed humanity and community during the last 25 years.



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সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০



প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সম্পাদক
শাহাদত হোসেন

- গুণগত মান বাড়ছে আমাদের, বাড়ছে খবরের সমাহার
- পাঠক আমাদের বিশ্বাস করে, বিজ্ঞাপনদাতা রাখে আস্থা
- দীর্ঘ ১০ বছর ধরে আপনারা যারা আছেন আমাদের সঙ্গে ১১ বছরের শুরুতে আমরা কি আপনারদের কথা না ভেবে পারি! তাই

পত্রিকার নতুন বছরে আমাদের উপহার ১৭৬ পৃষ্ঠার বর্ষভর সংখ্যা মাত্র ১০ টাকায়

আর নতুন ঘোষণা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত এখন থেকে প্রতি সংখ্যাই ১০ টাকা

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ই-মেইল : info@shaptahik2000.com

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আজই আপনার হকারকে বন্ধন



Islamia Eye Hospital Director General (In-charge) ASM Kamal Uddin and ORBIS International, Bangladesh Country Director Dr. Abu Raihan sign an agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in the city recently.

Hold polls as per roadmap: BDB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said it is the responsibility of the government and the Election Commission (EC) to hold the election according to the roadmap.

He was speaking at a view-exchange meeting with the party leaders and activists of Bagerhat

district in the capital.

Prof Chowdhury said though the government has some achievements, it has failed to resolve the price hike of essentials and power shortage problem.

About the pre-dialogue between the advisers and the political parties, he said the contents of the meetings should be aired through radio and television to inform the people.

The BDB chief said the constituencies in Dhaka could be increased as the population in the capital has increased, but other constituencies should be remained the same.

Party Secretary General Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan, presidium members Giassuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Zainal Abedin, central leaders Mahmuda Haque, Sajul Kamal and Abdur Rahim also spoke at the meeting.