

'Develop local expertise for coal extraction'

Oil, gas protection body leaders say in Debiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Leaders of National Oil, Gas, Power, Mineral resources and Port Protection Committee at a meeting yesterday urged extraction of coal from Phulbari coalmine by developing local expertise and ensuring its use for domestic purpose.

Allowing foreign companies for extraction of coal and letting them use it for their benefit will not bring any good for the country, they said at a seminar on "Development of north and maximum utilisation of mineral resources for national interest".

Debiganj upazila unit of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources and Power Port Protection Committee organized the seminar at Debiganj College auditorium in Panchagarh.

The caretaker government should postpone the decision to extract coal from Phulbari coalmine until development of our domestic organisation with skilled manpower, speakers said at the discussion.

People's consent is a must for extracting coal as implementation of Phulbari coalmine project by

foreign companies will threaten regional environment, they said.

With lowering of water level, huge agricultural land will be made uncultivable.

Destruction of huge natural resources for limited benefit cannot be allowed, they said, adding that there is no example in the whole world of destroying cultivable land for extracting coal.

It is unfortunate that some foreign diplomats and officials of international organisations are advocating and lobbying for allowing multinational companies to extract coal from Phulbari coalmine, said Prof Anu Muhammad.

Exploration for and extraction of coal resources should be done through state-owned bodies, he said.

"If Petrobangla and its subsidiary companies can successfully perform their tasks, then why similar state-owned companies would not be successful in doing the same task in the coal sector?" he posed a question.

As per national requirement

coal would be extracted as much as needed by the

State-owned companies will extract coal as per requirement of the country but it cannot be used for the benefits of exploiter multinational companies, he said.

Trouble faced during extraction of coal through underground mining at Barapukuria coalmine is manageable by filling the gap with sand but open pit mining is much more dangerous for people and environment in the area, said Engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, convener of the central committee.

Anamul Haque, convener of Debiganj upazila unit of Oil, Gas, Power, Mineral Resources and Port Protection Committee, chaired the meeting where Noor Muhammad, member of the central committee, Monirul Haque, member secretary of Debiganj upazila unit, spoke among others.

Later the leaders of National Oil, Gas, Power, Mineral resources and Port Protection Committee answered questions from the audience.

3 held for illegally running pvt universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police on Tuesday night arrested three persons for illegally running private universities and cheating its teachers and students for last one and a half years in Rajshahi.

The arrestees are Jamilur Rahman Dulal, so-called country director of Oxford Trent University, Rafikul Islam Lattu, chairman of Rajshahi Institute of Business and Information Technology and its director Rakibul Islam Rono.

Following requisition from Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, forces from Adabor Police Station in Dhaka arrested Jamilur Rahman Dulal from his another fake organisation -- Bangladesh Medical Institute at Shekherk. He was taken to Rajshahi yesterday.

Two others were held from their residences in Rajshahi city.

Police said, the swindlers were running the organisations without any approval from University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Health Department or any other lawful authority.

They admitted students without registrations, appointed teachers and cheated them by not paying salaries.

A two-month long investigation into the activities of private universities in Rajshahi revealed many alarming facts and the findings were reported to the government authorities concerned, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner M Zillur Rahman said in a press briefing yesterday afternoon.

Allahar Dal militant arrested in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a militant of banned Islamist outfit Allahar Dal from Shams village under Sundarganj upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab raided the house of Sundarganj upazila leader of Allahar Dal Kutubuddin and arrested him from there.

During interrogation, Kutubuddin confessed to his involvement with the activities of Allahar Dal. He was entrusted with the responsibility of regrouping the militants, he said.

A few days ago, Sundarganj police arrested 13 militants of Allahar Dal from Nayansukh village under the upazila.

4 outlaws get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Chuadanga court yesterday sentenced four top cadres of an outlawed Banglar Communist Party (BCP-Lattu) to life imprisonment for killing a farmer in 1999.

District and Sessions Judge Sarkar Abul Mansur Ahmed delivered the verdict in presence of three of the four convicts.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each and they have to suffer 10 years more imprisonment in default.

The convicts -- Tahazzol Hossain, 45, of Tildah, Hasem Ali, 36, Arman, 40, of Srikol in Chuadanga Sadar upazila and Sayed Hossain of Swarupdah in Mirpur upazila in Kushtia -- are top cadres of BCP. Sayed has been absconding since the incident.

Accused in at least 20 cases, BCP chief Lattu alias Nuruzzaman is now in Kushtia jail.

BCP cadres demanded Tk 5 lakh to farmer Dekhe Ali of Ukta village in Sadar upazila in Chuadanga and killed him on May 21 in 1999 after he declined to give the money, goes the prosecution.



Mother of Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf, Mokidunnesa, offering prayers after opening Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Library and Memorial Museum at the martyr's birthplace Roufnagar in Modhukhali upazila in Faridpur yesterday. Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali (second from left) and other freedom fighters are also seen in the picture.



PHOTO: STAR

SIDR DAMAGE

Only 78 of 644 km dams being repaired in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Repair of most of the flood control embankments damaged by cyclone Sidr in seven upazilas in Patuakhali district has become uncertain as Water Development Board (WDB) has been allotted only Tk 7.25 crore against local authorities' demand for Tk 110 crore for the work.

With the poor allocation, local authorities started repair work of only 78 km embankment and two sluice gates this year.

"We submitted an emergency 'proposed plan' of Tk 110 crore to the higher authorities concerned immediately after cyclone Sidr for repairing the damaged embankments. But they allotted only Tk 7.25 crore in two instalments," said Patuakhali WDB Executive

Engineer Md Jahir Uddin.

"With the allocation we have taken steps to repair only 78 km out of 645 km damaged embankment and two sluice gates. The repair work is going on in full swing," he said.

Cyclone Sidr on November 15 last year damaged 645 kilometres out of 1,209 kilometres flood control embankment in Patuakhali district, WDB sources said.

Of it, 83 km was damaged totally and the rest 562 km partly. In seven upazilas in the district, 355 out of 412 sluice gates, 612 inlets, 362 irrigation schemes, 24 closures were also damaged, they added.

Aman paddy on 1.70 lakh hectares of land was destroyed due to damage of the flood control embankments.

Nur Mohammad, a farmer of Charkhali village under Mirzaganj upazila in the district, said, "Aman paddy on three acres of my land was lost due to the Sidr. We will also be loser in the upcoming Aus season if the authorities concerned fail to repair the damaged embankments before the rains."

"Salty water from nearby rivers is flooding our agriculture lands as many parts of flood control embankments on Paieera riverbank are yet to be repaired," Shahjalal, another farmer of the same village, said.

"We do not want relief. We demand taking step for repairing embankments so that we can cultivate our land in the upcoming rainy season," said Abdul Kader Howlader, also a farmer.

'Indigenous women should be vocal for rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a discussion in Rajshahi yesterday said indigenous women should raise their voice to ensure their rights.

The government had to step back from implementing the National Women Development Policy following movement against it, they said at a discussion on "CEDAW and rights of indigenous and minority women" at the auditorium of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Jatuya Adibasi Parishad (JAP), Institute for Environment and Development (IID) and Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) jointly organised the programme.

Constitutional status of the indigenous people is yet to be acknowledged and the condition aboriginal women is not satisfactory, said Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha in his speech as the chief guest at the discussion.

He suggested that the aboriginal women get organised to join the mainstream movement for ensuring women's rights.

The government should take steps for implementing the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women) as it involves proper initiative from the legal, judicial and administrative level, speakers said at the meeting.

They demanded formation of a commission on the status of women to help the government implement the CEDAW.

JAP President Anil Marandi presided over the discussion where Bangladesh Communist Party Rajshahi unit President Abdul Kalam Azad, Rajshahi Mohila Parishad President Kolpona Roy, Kikonhat municipality Ward Commissioner Morjina Begum, BNPS coordinator Shahnaz Sumi, IID Executive Director Numan Ahmed Khan, journalist Mustafizur Rahman Khan, NGO activists SK Lalon, Afzal Hossain addressed, among others.

3 traffickers get life in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A court here yesterday awarded life term imprisonment to three persons for their bid to traffic four women and a child to India through Bagha border in 2004.

The convicts are Sher Alam of Bagha, Rajshahi, Abdul Karim and absconding Kohinur Begum, both of Tangail district.

AKM Sirajul Islam, judge of Second Court of Women and Children Repression Prevention pronounced the judgment.

The convicts took the four women and the child of Tangail to Sher Alam's house at Bagha for trafficking to India, said Esmat Ara Begum, public prosecutor (PP) of the court, quoting case documents.

Law enforcers rescued them and arrested two persons on July 18, 2004.

The rescued persons are Nur Jahan, Marium, Nurun Nahar, Lal Banu and her seven-year-old daughter Rahima.

2 Khulna power units declared abandoned To be sold on auction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Power Development Board (PDB) has declared abandoned two barge-mounted plants of Khulna power station (KPS) abandoned. Each of the plants had a capacity to generate 28 megawatt of electricity.

PDB took the decision at a meeting held in Dhaka on May 5, sources said here yesterday.

A committee had been formed by PDB to ascertain their market price to sell those in auction, KPS chief engineers said.

The barge-mounted plants number 1 and 2 were installed at Goalpara in Khulna city in 1980.

One of the plants was badly damaged in a fire accident in 1995. Tenders were invited by PDB twice to repair the damaged plant.

But none dropped tender as the plant was outdated and unfit for repair, said an engineer of Khulna power station.

Later in 2001, spare parts were brought from Ghorashal power plant to repair the plant for putting it into operation. But it again went out of order in 2007 due to another fire accident.

The other plant (No. 2) remained inoperative since December last year following technical glitch.

These two units could not be declared abandoned, said chief engineer of Khulna Power Station.

All the 38 officials and employees of the plants will be transferred to other power plants in the country, the chief engineer said.

Power outage in Khulna and other districts in south-western region would be severe in days to come as the 60 megawatt power plant has also remained out of order.

Besides, another 110 megawatt unit went out of order 27 times in last 14 months, also due to technical glitch.

Cracks on surface widening in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Cracks have appeared in different hillocks, roads and houses in Patanusher and Munshibazar unions in Kamalganj upazila.

Villagers are panicked and worried as neither the administration nor any expert could tell anything about the reason for the cracks, which are widening day by day.

Some villagers in the affected areas presumed that the cracks might be due to pressure of gas or shocks from explosions by US oil company Chevron during its 3D seismic survey in the areas.

An official of Chevron, when contacted, ruled out the possibility. Expert opinion is needed in this regard, he said.

Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Md Alkama Siddiquee, and Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Hazera Khatun have visited the areas.

Cracks started to develop in the area on May 24, which are widening. This correspondent during visits in last two days saw wide and long cracks in two hillocks in the compound of Bangladesh Air Force, a house and a road in Chak Kabiraji



PHOTO: STAR

Part of 1200-yard cracks on the surface at Ramchandrapur village in Munshibazar union of Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar.

village under Kamalganj upazila.

Cracks measuring about 1200 yard in its length was seen at Ramchandrapur village in Munshibazar union of same upazila. The cracks were 4 to 9 inches wide.

The deputy commissioner said, there is no reason to be panicked. He has written to higher authorities to send experts. Kamalganj UNO has also been asked to submit a report, he added.

Military Engineer Services

Directorate of Works & Chief Engineer (Army)

1st Amendment to Invitation for Tenders

1. Invitation for tenders of the following work appeared in Daily Bangla Bazar on 28 April 2008 and The Independent on 03 May 2008:

Tender name : Construction of 1 x Grenade production auxiliary shop including internal/external services inside the factory area at BOF Gazipur Cantt.

Invitation for Tender No: 52 of 2007-2008/E-6 dated 21-4-2008

2. The following items are amended as follows:

9. Tender last selling date	: 05 June 2008.
10. Tender submission date & time	: 08 June 2008 at 1100 hrs.
11. Tender opening date & time	: 08 June 2008 at 1130 hrs.
13. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	: Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW & CE (A) at GE (A) Project, Dhaka Cantt, 05 June 2008, 1000-1100 hours.

3. All other aspects of the above invitation for tenders shall remain unchanged.

ISPR/Army/08/1435
GD-2575

DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantt

'Easy availability raises acid violence'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Speakers at a meeting held here yesterday said acid violence is increasing day by day due to easy availability of acid.

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) organised the view-exchange meeting for journalists at Pabna Press Club auditorium in the morning.

Pabna Press Club president chaired the meeting.

Without having license, trade, storage and transport of acid should be stopped, they said.

They revealed that 2676 incidents of acid violence occurred in the country in nine years from 1999 to 2008. Of them, 1337 were women victims, they said.

During the period, 51 incidents of acid attack happened in the district, they said. Of them, 30 victims are women, they said.

They stressed on strict enforcement of Acid Control Act to resist the crime.

Only one criminal in one case was sentenced to life term imprisonment in the district under Acid Violence Control Act-2002, they said.

Accused persons of 11 out of 16 cases were acquitted and five others were released in the district, they also said.

Among others, Pabna Press Club secretary Utpol Mirza, Advocate Ahasan Habib Sobel of ASE Advocate Amirul Haque, co-ordinator of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) Advocate Alamgir Hossain, Advocate Jinat Ara Chowdhuri, Prothom Alo staff reporter Faruk Hossain Choudhury, Samakal staff reporter ABM Fazlur Rahman addressed.

গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

"শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস গ্রহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী"

গ্যারেজ ভাড়া আবশ্যক

গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল), পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী। কোম্পানীর প্রধান কার্যালয় বেডক্রিসেন্ট-বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৪, ৫ ও ৬), ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এ্যালিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইকটন, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০ টিকানায় অবস্থিত। জিটিসিএল আনুমানিক ১৫-২০টি গাড়ি সংরক্ষণের জন্য গ্যারেজ ভাড়া গ্রহণে আগ্রহী। পুরাতন এ্যালিফ্যান্ট রোড (ইকটন), ইকটন গার্ডেন, কাকরাইল, বেইলী রোড, পরিবাগ, হাতিরপুল, পাছপথ, কাকরাইল, বাজার, মোহাম্মদপুর, মগবাজার, তেজগাঁও এলাকায় অবস্থিত গ্যারেজসমূহ ভাড়া গ্রহণে আগ্রহীকর দেওয়া হইবে। গ্যারেজের অবস্থান অবশ্যই প্রশস্ত রাস্তা সংলগ্ন হইতে হইবে এবং নিরাপদে গাড়ি রাখিবার প্রয়োজনীয় সুবিধাদি থাকিতে হইবে। গ্যারেজ ভাড়া প্রদানে আগ্রহী মালিকগণকে মালিকানার স্বপক্ষে বৈধ দলিলাদি, রাজউক অনুমোদিত প্রান (যদি থাকে), লে-আউট প্রান এবং শর্তাদিসহ গাড়ি প্রতি মাসিক ভাড়ার হার উদ্ধৃতপূর্বক গালাবন্ধ বামে কোম্পানীর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের বর্ণিত টিকানায় উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (লজিস্টিকস) স্বাক্ষরে আগামী ১৬-৬-২০০৮ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন দাখিল/প্রেরণ করিতে অনুরোধ করা হইল। আগ্রহী মালিকগণ প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য জানার জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে কোম্পানীর লজিস্টিকস ডিপার্টমেন্টের সহিত যোগাযোগ করিতে পারেন। প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্রসমূহ আবেদনকারীদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) কোম্পানীর বর্ণিত টিকানায় অবস্থিত কমিটি রুমে (লেভেল-৬) আগামী ১৭-৬-২০০৮ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে। খোলার দিন কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না।

কোম্পানী সর্বনিম্ন দরের আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয় এবং কোম্পানী কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল অথবা সকল আবেদন বাতিল করিবার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

আবেদন দাখিলের ঠিকানাঃ

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (লজিস্টিকস)
গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)
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দুরালাপনীঃ ০২-৯৩৫৪৮০১ (অফিস)
মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১১-৫৪৯৩৬৭

জিটিসিআর-৬১/০৭-০৮
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