

Meet 6-point demand, expel Asia Energy

Thousands rally in Phulbari to commemorate killings in 2006 during protests against open pit mining

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Phulbari, Dinajpur

Leaders of National Oil, Gas, Minerals and Power and Port Protection Committee yesterday reiterated their demand for implementation of the six-point agreement signed on August 30 in 2006.

The previous governments had initiated deals with Asia Energy, Tata Group and Mittal to extract coal near Barapukuria, they said while observing the second anniversary of Phulbari killing.

On August 26 in 2006, at least three persons were killed and many others wounded as law enforcers opened fire and charged batons when people from Phulbari and surrounding upazilas prepared to lay siege to the coal mine area, urging the past BNP-led government to cancel the deal with Asia Energy.

Terming the deal as a threat for the national fuel security, leaders of the committee yesterday demanded expulsion of Asia Energy from the country and punishment of the 'middlemen' and government officials responsible for signing the deal with Asia Energy ignoring national interest.

National resources of the country are now under threat due to rampant corruption of previous political governments while the present caretaker government is yet to take any measures against the responsible people, they said.

They also demanded that the government announce August 26 as National Resources Protection Day.

Prof Anu Muhammad, general secretary of National Oil, Gas, Mineral, Power and Port Protection Committee, read out an announcement from the newly built monument erected in memory of those killed by law enforcers in Phulbari



Thousands with raised hands vow to resist open pit mining at Phulbari at a rally marking 'Phulbari killing day' yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

on August 26, 2006.

The open coal mine project will threaten growing agriculture industry in the region and eventually prove as an impractical venture, he said, adding that the coal project will lead to decline in the agricultural products including rice in Dinajpur and render thousands of people jobless.

Launching of the project will need at least 6,000 hectares of land and it will lead to displacing about 4,70,000 people including 50,000 indigenous people, he said.

As the organisers asked for opinion about the announcement, thousands of people raised their hands to indicate their support for it.

Monjurul Ahsan Khan, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Rashed Khan Menon, president of Bangladesh Workers Party, Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, Prof Shamsul Alam of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, writer Nur Muhammad, advocate Abdus Salam, National Gono Front leader Tipu Biswas, acting convener of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Shuvrangsu Chakrabarty were present at the programme.

Our RU Correspondent adds:

Speakers at a discussion meeting here yesterday blamed the government for not implementing the six-point agreement signed between government representatives and local people of Phulbari to protect national resources and environment in the coal mine area.

The meeting held at the Public Library auditorium was organised by Rajshahi unit of National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

They alleged that Asia Energy is trying to stage a comeback with support of some quarters of the government.

With advocate Hamidul Haque, local convenor of the committee in the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, its local coordinator Murad Morshed, eminent litterateur Prof Hassan Azizul Haque, Workers Party leader Fazley Hossain Badsha, Rajshahi University teacher Dr Muhammad Naser.

Trial of Aug 17 blasts begins in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna Special Court-1 yesterday recorded statement of the first prosecution witness (PW) of the sensational August 17 serial blasts case here.

The then officer-in-charge (OC) of Pabna Police Station, Wahiduzzaman Miah, also complainant of the case, gave statement before judge Md Jafrul Hassan, assistant public prosecutor (APP) Sayed Ali Reza Parvez here said to this correspondent over phone. He is among 30 PWs of the case. Through recording of his statement, the case was officially started after three years of the incident, he said.

In the statement, the PW described about the incident, recovered materials of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), the APP said.

JMB militants blasted bombs in five places of the district headquarters including Pabna court and bus terminal on August 17, 2005.

After long investigation, the court framed charges against four militants Nurul Haque Kawsar, Abdul Awal, Hasmat Ali and Boluk Hossain. Of them, Kawsar and Bakul are now detained in jail, jail sources said. The two were present at court during recording of statement of the PW, court sources said.

'Cheap treatment can check diabetes'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a discussion held in Sylhet yesterday said diabetes is a growing global epidemic with Asia bearing the heaviest burden.

The World Health Organisation estimates that by 2030, seven of the 10 global diabetes patients will reside in Asia.

Six Bangladeshi physicians, who joined an Asia-Pacific regional conference on 'Standing Tighter against Diabetes' in Bangkok in July last year, shared their experience at the discussion.

The increasing prevalence of diabetes indicates the need for optimising the screening for the disease, speakers said.

Prof Hajera Mahtab chaired the session styled 'Standing together against Diabetes: An ADA initiative to optimise diabetes therapy' held at a city hotel while Prof ZA Latif, Dr Md Faruque Pathan, Dr AM Salek Mollah, Dr Farid Uddin and Dr AW Chowdhury spoke, among others.

'Talk to parties to hold national polls in time'

Menon expresses doubt about holding of election as per road map

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday demanded holding of parliamentary election first, saying it will be affected if upazila polls are held before it.

Addressing a party workers' meeting at Pabna Press Club, he expressed doubt about holding of the national polls as per the Election Commission's road map because it (EC) is heavily burdened with jobs which it should not have initiated.

There was no need for delimitation of constituencies, which has raised controversies.

Turning to registration of political parties, Menon said he said even if Awami League and BNP want to register, they will have to hold party councils, which is not possible without lifting or relaxing emergency. Such things will further delay the already delayed national election, he said.

He urged the EC to talk to parties immediately to take expeditious steps for holding national polls.

The Workers Party chief said there is no existence of Mohajote (grand alliance of parties) now. Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad speaks of Mohajote to serve interest of his party, Menon said.

With Pabna Workers Party chief Nazrul Islam in the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, its Politburo member Anisur Rahman, local unit secretary Jakir Hossain and Pabna JSD chief Amirul Islam Ranga.

Chandpur town protection embankment threatened

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Earlier on Monday night, over 10 metres of the town protection embankment at Molehead (extreme west of the town) near Chandpur Railway Station suddenly collapsed.

As the Meghna started devouring about 100-metre area from Jugipatti to fish market at Puran Bazar of the town at around 1:00pm yesterday, panicked people started shifting wherever they could to safer places.

To stop further erosion in the area, authorities started dumping sand bags yesterday afternoon.

Commerce and Industries President Jahangir Akhund Selim has urged the government to take 'permanent measures' to save commercially important Puran Bazar from further erosion by the Meghna.

Despite spending crores of taka during the last few years to save Chandpur town protection embankment from erosion by Meghna River, the problem continues in absence of coordinated measures for the purpose, said locals and business leaders.



People shifting to safer places as sudden erosion by Meghna devoured several homesteads and business set-ups at Puran Bazar in Chandpur town yesterday.

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92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong
(An Enterprise of BCIC)

Invitation for Tender

1. Ministry	Ministry of Industries.			
2. Agency	BCIC.			
3. Procuring entity name	Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd.			
4. Procuring entity district	Rangamati Hill District.			
5. Procurement method	OTM (open tendering method).			
6. Source of fund	KPM own fund.			
7. Invitation for				
Sl No.	Tender No. & date	Materials/works	Earnest money (Tk)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
1)	PD/PT/KPM-11 Date: 19.08.08	Liquid Caustic Quantity-300 MT	1,50,000/-	1,000/-
8.	Tender last selling date	06.09.08 (up to office hour).		
9.	Tender closing date & time	07.09.08 (at 11.00am).		
10.	Tender opening date & time	07.09.08 (at 11.01am).		
11.	Name & address of the offices of selling tender documents	1) Cash Section, KPM Ltd, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong. 2) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka. 3) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong.		
12.	Name & address of the office receiving tender documents	1) General Manager (Com), KPM Ltd, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong.		
13.	Name & address of the office opening tender documents	General Manager (Com), KPM Ltd, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong.		
14.	Eligibility of tenderer	1) Current year trade licence, Income Tax clearance certificate & ten digit VAT registration certificate. 2) Bank solvency certificate duly supported with bank statement for the last/past six months and other documents described in the tender documents.		
15.	Designation of official inviting tender	Managing Director, KPM Ltd.		
16.	Address of official inviting tender	General Manager (Com), KPM Ltd, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong.		
17.	Contact details of official inviting tender	618315, 619554 Fax: 880-31-612833		
18.	Special instructions	1) All activities in connection to the said procurement will be guided as per The procedure for implementation of the Public Procurement Regulation-2003/PPAct-2006/2008. 2) Any declaration/certificate/documents/statement submitted by the tenderer is found to be fake/forged/false and if detected after submission of the tender the security money shall be forfeited forthwith. 3) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or/and reject any or/and all tenders prior to acceptance.		

Md. Shah Alam
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For Managing Director

MURDER OF OUTSIDER ON CAMPUS

Barisal medical students sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Abrar Ahmed, Dr Shahidul Islam, Dr Kabiruzaman, Dr A K S Aminul Huq and Dr Gazi Amanullah.

Sub-inspector (SI) Shishir Kumar Pal was appointed the investigation officer of the case. He visited the spot, took statements of eye-witnesses, collected bloodstained dress and other circumstantial evidences including appearance of the body.

Afterwards, he confirmed the death to be a consequence of physical torture.

Murad Hossain, a local resident and a plumber cum tiles fitting worker by profession, was allegedly beaten to death after torture by several medical students on Sunday.

This was followed by a clash between local people and medical students. Later, the SBMC authorities declared closure of the college for an indefinite period on Monday.

Free fishermen from mohajans Seminar told at Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Participants at a day-long seminar here yesterday urged the government to frame a fisherman-friendly fishery policy to improve their lot and develop open water fish resources in the country.

They also urged the government to give loan to fishermen like farmers, which will save them from the clutches of moneylenders.

Community Development Centre (CODEC) organized the seminar with assistances from district fishery department and NGO Manusher Jonno Foundation. It was held at the conference room of the deputy commissioner, marking the 'Fishery Resources Development Campaign' launched on

Saturday.

The seminar was inaugurated by Barisal Deputy Commissioner Manjur E Ilahi, Md. Israil Pundit, member of CODEC and central president of Khudra Matsayajib Samity was in the chair. District fishery Officer Md. Abdul Aziz was the special guest.

Dr Hamidul Huq, chairman of Institute of Livelihood Studies (ILS) moderated the seminar participated by over 40 people including grass root level fishermen, journalists, lawyers, fishery and youth development officials, fish merchants and bank officials.

The lot of fishermen can be changed and fishery resources developed if fishermen can be freed from the clutches of mohajans, they said.

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