

HUMAN CHAINS IN 10 DISTRICTS DEMAND Revive Bheramara-Khulna gas pipeline project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Human chains were formed in Khulna city and nine other districts of the south-western region yesterday demanding revival of the cancelled Bheramara-Khulna Gas Transmission Line Project (BKGTLP).

In Khulna, members of the political parties, professional bodies, socio-cultural organisations, students and teachers of all academic institutions, including Khulna University, joined the human chain programme at Picture Palace Cinema Hall intersection for an hour from 10:00am.

Commerce Minister Lt Col (retd) Md. Faruque Khan, State Minister for Labour

and Employment Mannujan Sufian, City Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque and BNP lawmaker from Khulna-2 constituency Nazrul Islam Manju also joined the programme to express their solidarity with the movement for revival of the gas transmission line project.

Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC), Khulna Citizens' Forum and Khulna Press Club jointly launched the movement on April 1 protesting cancellation of the ongoing Bheramara-Khulna Gas Transmission Line Project diverting its fund for construction of gas compression stations in Sylhet.

"The human chain programme is part of the ongoing movement which will

continue until revival of the project," said Alhaj Liakat Ali, president of Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee.

He said the implementation of the project will greatly benefit the people of the south-western region where there are many jute industries, frozen shrimp factories, Khulna Newsprint mill and world's largest mangrove forest, which largely contribute to national exchequer so far as revenue earnings are concerned.

The GKDACC president appealed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to implement the project for the sake of economic development of the south-western region.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee, Khulna Press Club and Khulna Citizens' Forum form a human chain at Picture Palace intersection in Khulna city yesterday demanding revival of Bheramara-Khulna Gas Transmission Line Project.

50 injured as villagers clash in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers belonging to Nukali and Alokdiar villages over a trivial matter in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday morning.

Police and local said the clash was a sequel to Friday night's incident at Nukali High School ground where two groups exchanged heated words over sitting on a chair at a cultural function.

At around 8:00am yesterday, a group of people of Alokdiar village chased some people of Nukali village and hurled abusive words at them.

Receiving the news, the people of Nukali swooped on the villagers of Alokdiar, leading to a fierce clash between the two sides. They used rods, bamboo sticks, and hurled brickbats at each other during the clash that continued for about two hours.

Sylhet city yet to see four proposed police stations

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Two and a half years after launching of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP), four proposed new police stations under it are yet to be set up.

Sylhet Kotwali and Dakshin Surma police stations under the metropolitan police are too inadequate to provide security for inhabitants of Sylhet city area covering 499-square kilometre while the SMP is suffering due to shortage of manpower and lack of other facilities.

Although Sylhet division was constituted in 1994, SMP formally started functioning on October 26 in 2006 with Kotwali and Dakshin Surma police stations under it.

There were proposal for early start of four other police stations -- Jalalabad,

Shahporan, Moglabazar and Airport but works are yet to start for the purpose. The Kotwali police find it hard to maintain law and order in a huge area under its jurisdiction.

The SMP is suffering from manpower shortage as about one third of its sanctioned posts have remained vacant since the very inception.

There is only one deputy police commissioner against four posts while the two sanctioned posts of additional deputy police commissioners are vacant, SMP sources said.

Only six assistant police commissioners are working here against a total of 27 sanctioned posts. A good number of posts sanctioned by the home ministry have been lying vacant for long.

In the beginning, office of the SMP commissioner was

temporarily housed at the small tin-shed rest house of Water Development Board (WDB) at Naiorpol in the city.

In absence of own arrangement, the SMP personnel were accommodated at the Range Reserve Force (RRF) police lines. The officials are also suffering for want of housing facility.

Still now, no initiative has been taken to establish SMP's own building.

"All necessary papers and documents have been submitted to the home ministry. Now the matter would get a speedy implementation as SMP Bill was passed in parliament a few days ago," SMP Commissioner Syed Toufique Uddin Ahmed said.

However, the official could not give any idea about the time to start functioning of the new police stations.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Vehicles get stuck in long tailbacks on both sides of Kaoakandi-Maoa ferry route as three ferryboats on the route went out of order.

BOU laboratory school faces closure

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Bangladesh Open University Laboratory School at Gazipur is facing closure throwing the fate of 17 teachers and employees and 300 students into uncertainty.

BOU laboratory school started its journey as a junior high school in 2005. But now the teachers and employees of the school are not getting salary from January 2009.

BOU Vice Chancellor Prof RIM Aminur Rashid said the school was established violating rules. Taking its responsibility would amount to corruption, he observed.

Sources said the school admitted students and appointed teachers from 2005. At first the school authorities took government permission for junior high school (upto class VIII) for three years. But this year it admitted students to classes IX and X.

Teachers and employees said the university authorities 'suddenly' stopped their salary from January this year.

Headmistress Reshma Parveen said, she personally and along with her colleagues talked with the vice chancellor several times for a way out. The teachers and employees also submitted memorandum to the VC and others concerned

and observed work stoppage.

But the vice chancellor always questioned legality of establishing the school and the appointments saying the whole process had violated the rules of the University Grants Commission (UGC), she said.

Contacted, VC Prof RIM Aminur Rashid admitted stoppage of salary payment and alleged that the then VC established the school in a car garage 'in a hurry'.

Rashid said the rules of UGC clearly say that the manpower of such school cannot be a part of the university. The university can only allow a grant of not more than Tk 10 lakh to the school.

The VC said the government audit expressed objection about spending Tk 94.73 lakh in fiscal year 2005-06 and 2007-08.

He also raised questions about the qualification of some teachers and their appointment process.

Replying to a question, the VC said he does not want to ruin the academic life of the students. I rather want to establish the school anew following rules, he said.

Headmistress Reshma Parveen claimed her appointment was lawful and added, all activities of the school were done with the approval of the managing committee.

Indigenous culture wearing off Says Larma, blames non-implementation of CHT accord

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The indigenous people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are losing their culture and customs as the CHT peace accord has remained unimplemented for years.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma), chairman of CHT Regional Council and also chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), said this in Rangamati while inaugurating a rally yesterday on the occasion of Biju, the biggest festival of the indigenous people in CHT.

They are also passing their days amid insecurity, he alleged.

Indigenous communities including Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Tangchangya, Mro, Chak and Khumi celebrate the festival to shed the sorrows of the previous year and welcome the Bangla New Year.

Called by the Chakmas as Biju, the festival is known by different names to the indigenous communities in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill district in CHT.

The Marmas observe it as Sangrain, the Tripuras as Boisuk and the Tangchangyas Bisu.

CHT indigenous people observe the festival for three days including last two days of the old year and first day of the Bangla New Year and so, main functions of the festival will start today and end on Tuesday.

Biju Udjapan Committee yesterday organised a mammoth colourful rally that paraded from Rangamati pourasabha to Rajbari in the town.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma) inaugurated the rally held on the premises of Rangamati Municipality office while barrister Devasish Roy, chief of Chakma Circle, addressed it as the chief guest.

Former law advisor Hassan Arif, Gano Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya and journalist Syed Abul Moksud addressed the rally as special guests.

"We signed the peace accord with the government for preservation and development of our ethnic cultures. Eleven years have elapsed after signing of the deal, but steps have not been taken for its full implementation, Santu Larma said at the rally.

He urged the present government to take immediate steps for full implementation of the accord.

Calling upon the indigenous people to uphold their culture and customs, Devasish Roy said indigenous people are still being deprived, tortured and harassed by the rulers.

Due to lack of political good will, the indigenous people have been deprived of their fundamental rights for long and that is why they are lagging behind, Hassan Arif said.

Biju Udjapan Parishad in Rangamati has taken elaborate programmes including art competition, rally, roundtable, traditional games and sports, cultural function, film show, drama, and floating flowers to celebrate the festival.

Earlier on Thursday, indigenous cultural organisation Jhum Aesthetix council arranged an art competition and a prize-giving function at Ashika hall room in the town.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports: Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to ensure constitutional rights for indigenous people of the country.

They also urged ensuring the rights and privileges of indigenous people as per CHT peace accord signed between the then Awami League government and PCJSS in December 1997.

Boishabi Ujjapon Committee organised the discussion at Tribal Cultural Institute (TCI) in hill town Khagrachhari.

Refugee Affairs Taskforce Chairman Zatintra Lal Tripura attended as chief guest at the function presided over by Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhity Karbari.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Indigenous girls in Khagrachhari adorn themselves with traditional dress as they prepare for joining a rally on the occasion of their three-day festival to welcome Bangla New Year 1416.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
Ministry of Education

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2	Agency	Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education
3	Procuring entity name	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP)
4	Procuring entity code	7040
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Hostel & Office Furniture for NAEM & Dhaka TTC Hostel
7	Invitation Ref No	TQI-SEP/ADB-GOB/Procurement/206/08(part-15)/265/625
8	Date	09.04.2009

9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), PPR-2008
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10	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Canadian International Agency for Development (CIDA)
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11	Development partners (if applicable)	ADB & CIDA
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12	Project code	7040
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13	Project	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP)
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14	Tender package no	GD 18/08-09
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15	Tender package name	Procurement of Classroom & office furniture for NAEM Hostel & others
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16	Tender publication date	12/04/2009
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17	Tender last selling date	30/04/2009
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18	Tender closing date and time	03/05/2009 2:00 PM
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19	Tender opening date and time	03/05/2009 2:00 PM
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20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
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- Selling tender document	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP), Room No 802, 7th Floor, Bhaban-02, Shikha Bhaban, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
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- Selling tender document (others)	-
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- Receiving tender document	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP), Room No 802, 7th Floor, Bhaban-02, Shikha Bhaban, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
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- Opening tender document	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP), Room No 802, 7th Floor, Bhaban-02, Shikha Bhaban, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
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21	Pre-tender meeting will be held on	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP), Room No 802, 7th Floor, Bhaban-02, Shikha Bhaban, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
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Place/date/time of	Date	26/04/2009	Time	2:00 PM
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22	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers from ADB member countries.
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23	Brief description of goods	Hostel & office furniture
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24	Brief description of related services	Transport of all the furniture to NAEM Dhaka TTC describe in the Requirement Schedule.
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25	Price of tender document	BD Tk1500/- non-refundable in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh Bank to Project Director, TQI-SEP.
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Lot no	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (refundable)	Completion time in weeks/months
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26	Single package	Hostel & office furniture for NAEM and Dhaka TTC Hostel	NAEM & Dhaka TTC describe in the Requirement Schedule	Tk. 3,97,000.00	5 weeks after work order issued
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27	Name of official inviting tender	Md Nazrul Islam
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28	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director
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29	Address of official inviting tender	Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP), Room No 801, Bhaban-02, Shikha Bhaban, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
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30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 9562228 Fax No. 9564199 e-mail: pdtqisep@dhaka.net
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31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	
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Md Nazrul Islam
Project Director
Tel. # 9562228

GD-1891