

PROTESTERS GATHER ON SURMA BANK

Thousands call to stop 'disastrous' Tipaimukh project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Several thousand people yesterday joined a programme on the bank of Surma River in Sylhet city protesting the much talked Tipaimukh dam project on the upstream of Barak River in Indian state of Manipur.

The project will create a disastrous situation in 12 districts in the north-east region of Bangladesh and areas in Indian states of Assam and Manipur, speakers said at the programme organised by Angikar Bangladesh.

Calling upon the democratic and patriotic forces to raise voice against the looming crisis, they said there should be adequate awareness among our citizens about the Tipaimukh project.

Meanwhile there have been strong protests in three north-eastern states of India -- Manipur, Assam and Mizoram -- against the mega project that would threaten the existence of at least 40,000 aboriginals people and cause immense harm to ecology and environment in a large area.

Shahjalal University Teacher Dr Nazia Chowdhury, Sujon Sylhet chapter General Secretary Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, Bapa

Sylhet chapter Secretary Abdul Karim Kim, Sylhet district Bar Association Vice-President Kishore Kumar Kar spoke at the rally.

Implementation of the said project, mainly aimed at producing electricity, would cause a disastrous situation for the Meghna basin, especially the greater Sylhet region, during the dry season due to large-scale withdrawal of water of the Barak River in the upper stream. Also there are apprehensions of recurrent flooding during the monsoon due to possible release of water," a senior official in the Bangladesh Water Development Board said.

The Indian government is going ahead with the project even ignoring protests in Manipur state, he said, adding that it will be another Farakka for Bangladesh. The Barak River bifurcates as Surma and Kushiya while entering into Bangladesh territory.

People of greater Sylhet region started protesting the projects since the news of approval of the project was published a few years ago.

However, the Indian officials claimed that the hydro-electric project in their territory will not cause any harm for the Sylhet region.

Health service too poor in Bandarban

31 working against 108 govt posts in district, upazila hospitals

MONIRUL ISLAM MONU,
Bandarban

Acute shortage of doctors and technical staffs is seriously affecting health service in Bandarban hill district.

After the present government took over, district health department sent a report on the 'emergency situation' to the higher authorities but no step has been taken yet, said sources at Bandarban civil surgeon's office.

Only 31 medical officials are working in the district headquarters and upazila health complexes against 108 government posts, said sources at district health department.

Most of the people of remote areas have to depend on quacks, fake baidyas and unskilled pharmacists, said several public representatives of rural areas.

"Resident Medical Officer [RMO] is a very important post for a hospital. But the posts of RMO in the district,

other than Bandarban Sadar Hospital, have remained vacant for a long time," said Dr Ching Swe Prue, medical officer of district civil surgeon's office.

"In absence of RMOs, regular indoor treatment and administrative works of hospitals and health complexes are seriously hampered," Dr Ching said.

"Under the pressure of the then government, the 50-bed Bandarban Sadar hospital was upgraded to 100-bed hospital in 2005. But extension of facilities as 100-bed hospital were stalled due to bureaucratic tangles during the last four years," said a government official seeking anonymity.

The Sadar hospital has been running without senior consultant for medicine, senior consultant for skin and viral disease, junior consultant for orthopaedics, junior consultant for cardiology and junior consultant for eye and emergency medical

officer for a long time.

Besides, posts of dental surgeons have remained vacant at Ruma, Roangchhari, Thanchi, Lama, Alikadam and Naikkhonchhari upazila health complexes for long.

Against 23 posts of assistant surgeons, there are only two persons -- one at Alikadam Upazila Health Complex and the other at Baisari Union Health centre under Naikkhonchhari upazila.

As the posts of blood test technicians in Alikadam, Ruma, Roangchhari and Thanchi upazila hospitals have been vacant for 22 years, diagnosis of malaria and other viral diseases are hampered.

"Critically ill people have to be taken to upazila health complex on shoulders. But many have to return without proper treatment due to absence of medical officers," said Yang Rai Mro, an indigenous inhabitant of Remakri union under Thanchi upazila.

Father of slain Jubo League leader seeks justice after seven years

RU CORRESPONDENT

Father of a slain Jubo League leader, at a press conference held at Metropolitan Press Club in Rajshahi yesterday, demanded punishment of killers of his son murdered seven years ago.

Nader Ali, father of slain Waz Nabi Dulu, former assistant general secretary of Rajshahi Ward No 26 alleged that local BNP cadres killed his son on April 27, 2002. He alleged that Dulu was murdered because he had campaigned in favour of Nagorik Committee candidate Fazle Hossain Badsha during Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) election.

BNP candidate Mizanur Rahman Minu won the election defeating Badsha following which BNP cadres tortured local Awami League leaders and activists in the ward, Nader disclosed, adding the cadres attacked his house and beat up his elder son.

Later, a meeting was held at Namobodra Primary School playground in presence of local leaders on April 27 where an altercation ensued between BNP cadres and AL activists.

At one stage, BNP cadres stabbed his son with sharp weapons in front of other people, he said.

Dulu died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, he further stated.

As police refused to receive the case, Dulu's brother Habibur Rahman filed a case with chief metropolitan magistrate court accusing 14 BNP cadres, Nader said. But a BNP bigwig influenced the case and transferred its investigation officer (IO). Police also did not arrest any killer, he alleged.

Police later submitted charge sheet against one Azanur, but without proper investigation, he said.

The killers are now moving freely in the locality under the nose of police, he said demanding reinvestigation of the case.

Contacted, former RCC mayor Minu refuted all allegations.

Slain Jubo League leader's mother Golchhar Begum, brother Rafiqul Islam and other relatives were also present at the press conference.



Sacked workers of Essential Drugs Company Ltd form a human chain on the office premises at Thanthania in Bogra town yesterday demanding their reinstatement. Around 900 staff of the govt-owned company lost job during the last caretaker government's tenure.

MURDER, RAPE, LOOTING DURING '71 WAR 8 sued in Khulna, one arrested in Rajshahi

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Eight alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces were sued in Khulna yesterday while another was arrested in Rajshahi the day before for war crimes in 1971.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reported that Munshi Ruhul Amin, son of Munshi Abu Tayeb of Rayermahal under Khalishpur Police Station, filed a petition case against eight rajakar with Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The accused are Sheikh Zahidul Islam, Khan Abdul Aziz, Sheikh Arjan Ali, Sheikh Jamaluddin, Sheikh Shamsur Rahman, Sheikh Abdus Sattar, Torab Ali and Sheikh Abu Taleb.

They were sued for murder, rape and looting in Rayermahal area during the Liberation War in 1971.

The court asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Khalishpur Police Station to record the case after proper investigation.

In the petition, the complainant stated that the accused stabbed his younger brother Munshi Firoze, set their house on fire and looted money and gold ornaments on May 22, 1971.

He alleged that the collaborators killed two freedom fighters -- Abdus Shaheed of Baro Boyra and Md Sohrab Ali of Goalkhali under Khalishpur Police Station -- the same day.

Munshi Ruhul Amin fur-

ther alleged that the accused were also involved in looting, rape and arson in the area under the leadership of 'rajakar' commander Sheikh Zahidul Islam, one of the accused, during the War of Independence.

In Rajshahi, an alleged war criminal, arrested on Tuesday, was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Abdul Jabbar Sarker, an assistant teacher of Ujankhali High School under Durgapur upazila, was arrested in connection with a murder occurred during the Liberation War in 1971, according to our staff correspondent.

Police produced him before the Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday seeking a five-day remand. But the court granted three days remand for him.

Alim Uddin Mridha of Hoja Alantakandi village filed the

case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Rajshahi, on April 12 accusing 13 alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces of killing his father Bahar Uddin Mridha on April 13, 1971.

The court then asked the police to take legal action on the complaint. Following the court order, Durgapur police recorded the case and arrested Abdul Jabbar, one of the 13 accused.

Other accused are Abdul Wahed Mollah, Akbar Mridha, Abdus Sobhan Sarker, Abdul Jabbar Paik, Samjan Sarker, Abdus Samad, Sohrab Ali, Hamid, Abdul Gafur, Yoyen Uddin, Jonab and Altaf.

Of the accused, Abdul Wahed Mollah, who was the chief of Durgapura thana peace committee during the Liberation War, is now a BNP leader.

Transport strike demanding road repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Road communication between Bhola and other parts of the country came to a halt disrupted yesterday following an indefinite strike enforced by local transport owners and workers demanding immediate repair of Bhola-Charfassion road.

Agitated transport owners and workers backed by local people brought out a procession, observed a sit-in programme and besieged the Bhola Roads and Highways Department (RHD) office.

Later, they handed over a memorandum to the executive engineer of Bhola RHD. The agitators also held a rally.

Contacted, Bhola RHD executive engineer Shoeb Ahmed said he will send the memorandum to the ministry concerned.

EDCL Essential Drugs Company Limited
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International Tender Notice

EDCL invites international tender for supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Materials on C&F© Dhaka by Air/Chittagong by road basis:

SI No.	Tender No. & date	Name of the item	Cost of tender schedule	Last date of closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/SEM/39/2008-2009 dated 20/04/2009	1. Banana Flavour Ph. Grade 2. Boric Acid BP 3. Citric Acid Anhydrous BP (For D/S) 4. Citric Acid Mono. (For liquid) 5. Citric Acid (For Injection) 6. Di-Sodium Hydrogen Phosphate BP 7. Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cell USP 8. MS Antifoam 9. Methyl Hydroxybenzoate BP 10. Methyl Hydroxybenzoate BP 11. Poly Sorbate 80 12. Propyl Hydroxy Benzoate BP 13. Propyl Paraben Sodium BP 14. Phenol 15. Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate 16. Sodium Borate BP 17. Sodium Benzoate BP 18. Sodium Hydroxide Pellet 19. Sodium Metabisulphite (100%) 20. Tri Ethanol Amine BP 21. Essence of Lemon (Ph Grade) 22. Essence of Orange Sweet (Ph Grade) 23. Orange Flavour Powder (Ph. Grade) 24. Peppermint Oil	Tk. 1000.00 equivalent to US\$ 15.00	Closing: 11/05/2009 at 11.00 am Opening: 11/05/2009 at 11.15 am
02.	IMP/RM/SEM/40/2008-2009 dated 20/04/2009	1. Cetyl Alcohol BP 2. Coconut Oil (BP Grade) 3. Diclofenac Sodium BP 4. Di Chloromethane BP 5. Glycerine 6. Isopropyl Alcohol BP 7. Sodium Starch Glycolate BP 8. Sodium Chloride BP	Tk. 1,500.00 equivalent to US\$ 22.00	Closing: 14/05/2009 at 11.00 am Opening: 14/05/2009 at 11.15 am

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

EDCL Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This information is also available at our Website: www.edcl.gov.bd

Md Feroze-ul-Alam
Director Operation &
Incharge, Planning & Procurement Deptt
For Managing Director



PHOTO: STAR

Silted and narrowed Chenghi River in Khagrachhari. People in 100 remote villages suffer for want of drinking water as most water sources in the hill district dry up in the dry season.

concerned do not come up with strategic actions.

The report, published recently, also suggested a new action plan and integrated approach to resolve the problems.

Mohammad Abul Bashar, assistant teacher of Matiranga Pilot School told The Daily Star that some 1,000 people in his Musilimpura area have been suffering for lack of drinking water. They collect water from

nearby villages. "It's become very difficult to live in the village", he said.

Pointing to Tk 50 lakh water development project implemented by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, he said it only fattened pockets of some BNP leaders while the problems remained mostly unresolved. He also criticised NGOs as they do not take pain to know the real situation.

Milon Tripura, a poor

indigenous man from Semana para under Sadar upazila said there is no tubewell in his village. "Neither government nor NGOs come to solve our water crisis", he alleged.

Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer of Matiranga Upazila AEO Mohammad Amzad Hossain told the Daily Star that around 1,000 acres of land remain uncultivated while at least 25 villages of upazila are suffering for scanty drinking water.

Executive Engineer of District Public Health, Mohammad Sohrab Hossain admitted the crisis and said remoteness, lack of technology, poor integrated approach have added to the situation.

"Besides, there are many areas where the authorities cannot set up tubewell just because of armed criminal groups. They often demand ransoms for development work. That's why sometimes we cannot do anything in spite of all good intention to ensure water facilities in remote areas of Khagrachhari", he said.

Deputy Commissioner AKM Khairul Alam said he has sent a proposal to the ministry concerned to resolve water crisis in the remote villages.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Ruhily Karbali observed that all relevant sectors including government and non-governmental organisations should work in unison. "Then it would be possible to achieve total water and sanitation coverage", he said.

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