



Sylhet Bibhagh Unnayan Chhatra Sangram Parishad burns Indian goods on Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the construction of Tipaimukh dam. It also called on all to boycott Indian products.

Menon for edn system without discrimination

BSS, Dhaka

Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry, yesterday laid importance on an education system without any discrimination.

He said the poor children are being deprived of flourishing their merit under the present education system in the country.

For that reason, he said the educational institutions where the children of down-trodden people are studying should be given more patronisation through resource allocation and creating necessary infrastructure.

Menon was addressing as the chief guest a reception accorded to brilliant SSC students of Shaheed Faruk Iqbal Girls High School at

Malibagh in the city.

The reception was accorded to the students for showing their excellence in this year's Secondary School Certificate examinations.

The school, named after Shaheed Faruk Iqbal, former general secretary of Abujar Gifari College and the martyr of the War of Liberation.

Headmistress Dipti Rani Rajbangshi, local political leader Hashemuddin Haider Pahari, Abujar Gifari College Principal Nurunnabi Siddiqui spoke at the function with managing committee president and ADC (gen) of Dhaka Abu Hena Morshed Zaman in the chair.

Menon said the girls' education should be promoted as women are still being neglected in all spheres of society though "We talk about women's empowerment."

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

Production may hit snag for less consumption by power plant

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinaipur

The Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Limited (BCMCL) authorities fear that coal production at Barapukuria coal mine might be hampered any time due to less consumption of coal by the ailing 250 megawatt (MW) coal-fired Barapukuria power plant as its two units often trip, leading to stockpiling of huge coal, sources said.

With severe technical glitches, the 1st unit of the plant had been consuming only 23,000 tonnes since April 21, while the 2nd unit was shut down. In March, it consumed about 70,000 tonnes of coal as the two units remained operative.

Sources said first unit of the coal-fired power plant faced closure on Saturday night as the plant developed technical glitches at super heat, a device inside the furnace chamber.

On the other hand, the 2nd unit, which restarted on July 6, remained inoperative since April 21 last due to a number of technical glitches. But the five-member Chinese expert team arrived the plant site last month and restarted it on July 6.

Sources said 100MW power was added to national grid on Friday night.

But plant sources said the renovation is not the ultimate solution as it plunged into severe technical glitches,

which needs a radical overhaul with replacement of different parts.

Sources said Chinese experts proposed Tk 30 crore to fix the current trouble of the 2nd unit with replacing some parts. "If we go in line with Chinese experts' suggestions, the plant requires about six months to be fully operational," added the sources.

According to the agreement, the plant consumes 60 percent coal of the total production. BCMCL sources said the mine is producing 3,000 tonnes of coal daily, but the plant has been consuming only 960 to 1000 tonnes each day before it went out of order on April 21 until yesterday which forced the authorities to stock the coal saturating the coal yard.

Sources said due to less consumption by the plant, BCMCL has some 2,40,000 tonnes of coal at its yard, while its actual capacity of storing is 2,05,000 tonnes as per international safety standard.

To vacate the coal yard, BCMCL initiated to sell the coal to international market, but the government dismissed the decision last week, saying that Bangladesh is presently importing at least 12 lakh tonnes coal every year from the neighbouring country.

According to the 2002 survey, at least 2.4 million tonnes of coal are required to meet the domestic demand,



Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Limited stockpiles coal up to seven to 10 metre height at the coal yard, ignoring the international standard of piling up to three to five metres height.

while BCMCL is producing at least one million tonnes. Of them, 60 percent coal is consumed by the power plant. But it is now consuming less than the actual demand, forcing the BCMCL to stockpile the coal on its yard.

Sources said BCMCL piled up coal up to seven to 10 metre height, while international standard is only three to five metres height which requires huge watering to avoid any fire

incident.

Besides, with severe shortage of coal storage, the plant authorities are now thinking to create a new room inside the plant complex to store about 100,000 tonnes coal.

"If we do not arrange an alternative coal yard, the piled-up coal will be burnt under the open sky as it is unsafe to keep coal at the yard for long time during dry season," said a BCMCL

source.

The mine authorities now fear that if the stockpiling scarcity continues or power plant consumes less coal, the coal production will be suspended.

The mine is currently producing 90,000 to 100,000 tonnes aiming at producing 900,000 tonnes within the current fiscal year.

The mine sold about 2,50,000 tonnes of coal at \$110

dollars a tonne to private buyers, mainly brick kiln owners, making a huge profit for the first time after incurring more than Tk 150 crore loss in the last three years of its operation.

But the power plant glitches stand as one of the two major hurdles faced by the mine. The other hurdle is political resistance against mining fuelled by a vested quarter.

Killers of journos to be tried: Azad

11 journalists awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will hold trial of all killings of journalists in the country and will ensure exemplary punishment for the culprits, said Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday.

He said this while addressing a ceremony held for distributing Best Report Award, 2008 and certificates of the English Language Course at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Eleven reporters of various dailies and TV channels received eight awards for their reports in various fields in 2008.

Azad said measures would be taken to stop torture and intimidation of journalists and false cases filed against them would be withdrawn.

"We have said in our charter that we will ensure freedom of the press and free flow



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the Best Report Award 2008 pose for photograph with Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad at an award giving ceremony at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

of information," he said.

The minister said discriminatory policies and nepotism in government advertisement distribution will be removed and necessary assistance will be provided to help the industry flourish.

Sharifuzzaman Pintu of daily Prothom Alo won the President's Award for his report on education while Bhorer Kagoj Award for best report on violence against women and children went to Afroza Nazneen of Khabarpatra.

Julfikar Ali Manik and Syed Ashfaqul Haque of The Daily Star jointly bagged the FBCCI Award for their investigative economic report.

Helemul Alam of The Daily Star got Shaheed Jaya Hasna Hena Quadir Smriti Award for his report on the Liberation War.

Helal Uddin of Jugantar and Mizan Chowdhury of Janakantha jointly secured the DCCI Award for their objective economic report.

The Navana Award for best sports report went to Masud Alam of Prothom Alo.

Selim Zahid of Shamokil and Kishwar Laila of Bangla Vision bagged the Hedayet Hossain Morshed Smriti Parishad Award for best report on humanitarian issues.

Keramat Ullah Biplab of Channel 1 won the Dhaka City Corporation Award for best TV investigative city report.

Congratulating the winners, Azad urged them not only to uphold problems of the society and but also give directions of possible solutions in their reports. Azad said, "I believe you [journalists] will do constructive criticism as well as uphold the real picture of government activities."

"We have already passed the Right to Information Act and also formed an information commission which has started its work." The act

would help journalists carry out their duties.

On the English Language Course, he said there is no alternative to learning the English language and we have to learn the language to make our position stronger in the international arena.

Shafiqul Kabir, founding president and chairman of the jury board, Shamim Ahmad, president of DRU, and Pathik Saha, general secretary of DRU, also spoke.

Call to stop repression on journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists' leaders at their 'Demand Day' programme yesterday demanded that the government reinstate the journalists who were sacked from Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and Bangladesh Television (BTV).

At a rally at the National Press Club they also demanded the government to stop repression on journalists.

The government expressed commitment to build a digital Bangladesh and ensure employment. But after getting into power it is rather kicking out the people from jobs, they said.

At the rally organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) the speakers urged the government to meet their four-point demand.

BFUJ President Ruhul Amin Gazi presided over the rally while Secretary General M A Aziz and DUJ President Abdus Shahid spoke.

FOOD ADULTERATION

Call to punish criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists yesterday demanded the government give death sentences to the criminals involved in food adulteration and restart its anti-adulteration drive.

At a human chain and rally organised by Citizens' Rights Movement and SHEBA in the city, they said food adulteration becomes so immense nowadays that people find it difficult to consume food items.

The situation has become so worsening that rotten potatoes, fat, chemical colour and semolina are used to prepare ghee, while brickbats are mixed with powdered spices, they added.

The speakers placed a five-point demand, including drive against food adultera-

tion, seizing licences of the adulterators and their death sentences after implementing section '25-C' of 1974.

They also demanded formulation of a commission to resist food adulteration. Representatives of BSTI, reporters, law-enforcers and elected members of civil society would be made members of the commission.

The drive against adulterated food should be continued throughout the year, the speakers said at the rally chaired by Senior Vice President of Citizens' Rights Movement Maj (ret'd) Mozilul Haque Sarker.

Syed Abul Maksud, advocate Golam Muhammad Chowdhury, Dr Muhammad Inamul Haque, Dr Muhammad Nuruddin and Dr Farida Akhter Shilpi also spoke.

Speaker happy with democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the country is still ridden with politics of conflicts and disputes, the fact that matters most is it is being governed by democracy, said Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate yesterday.

He said regardless of which party is in power, what matters is the country managed to retain its democracy after the incidents of 1/11.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the BSB Cambrian Youth Parliament, a debating competition, at the ATN Bangla studio at Bashundhara City here in the city.

"Debate is a practice that enlightens one's mind and intellect. It is a logical practice through which society can communicate its rights in an intellectual way," he said.

As debate is a big part of

national parliament, these competitions will surely produce capable member of parliaments and speakers for the future, he added.

Jointly organised by ATN Bangla and Cambrian College, the BSB Cambrian Youth Parliament will have two teams facing each other in debates on a parliamentary setting.

A total of 32 colleges from across the country will participate in the competition.

ATN Bangla Chairman Dr Mahfuzur Rahman presided the event.

Lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne, Cambrian College Chairman MK Bashar, Director of Programmes of ATN Bangla Nawazish Ali Khan and Chairman of Debate for Democracy Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron also spoke on the occasion.

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