

Bangladesh to buy 2,000MW electricity from Nepal, Bhutan

BSS, Dhaka

Nepal and Bhutan have pledged to export hydroelectricity to Bangladesh. A Bangladesh delegation expressed eagerness to import 2,000 megawatt (MW) of electricity -- 1,000 from each of the neighbouring countries -- during a recent visit.

Prime minister's Finance Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman led the seven-member delegation to Nepal and Bhutan from November 21 to 25.

Returning home on Friday, he told the news agency that Nepal would give the electricity from its Saptokoshi project while Bhutan from its Sangkoshi project.

Besides, there was much progress in discussions on the issues of transit, transshipment, water supply and expansion of bilateral trade with the two countries.

As all these things would require using the Indian territory, the whole issue would be discussed during Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's forthcoming Bangladesh visit early next year.

Meetings in both the countries observed that the Bangladesh-India joint communique, signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Delhi visit, enhanced opportunities for the countries in the region to expand cooperation.

During official talks in Nepal, the issues of water resource development and river management, generation and distribution of electricity at Shaptakoshi reservoir with partnership, communications, transit and transshipment, use of Mongla and Chittagong seaports, expansion of trade and taking joint initiatives in global arena regarding climate change

were discussed.

The Bangladesh delegation, during the visit to Bhutan from November 23 to 24, conveyed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's greetings to the King and Prime Minister of that country.

Dr Moshiur Rahman said Bhutan has fixed a target of generating 10,000 MW of electricity from Sangkoshi reservoir. Bangladesh has expressed eagerness to import 1,000 MW from there, he added.

He said Bangladesh would set up a land port at Nakugaon in Sherpur district to facilitate Bhutanese trucks to come 200 meters inside the Bangladesh territory for bilateral trade.

The government has amended Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) system for the purpose. The US \$ 20 million trade volume between the two countries could be increased five times.

'Fix date for UP polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum yesterday demanded announcement of a specific date to hold the union parishad elections to strengthen the democratic process and also reduce all sorts of dispute about the election date.

They told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity. It placed some demands including properly empower the elected representatives of union parishad to implement development activities and amend the controversial provisions of the Union Parishad Act.

All kinds of allotment including VGE, VGD, test relief and others should be given directly to the UP without any interference of the local lawmakers or UNOs, said the president of the forum Mahbubur Rahman Tulu.



People wait in long queues to buy rice from the open market sales (OMS) trucks at Kamrangir Char in the city yesterday as OMS in Dhaka is being run in a limited scale, with around 50 to 60 trucks operating, from Wednesday.



Paribesh Bachao Andolon and Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka District Rover form a human chain in front of Lalbagh Fort in the city yesterday demanding eviction of illegal encroachers on the fort.

'Protect Lalbagh Kella'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Environment Movement yesterday called upon the government to take immediate steps to protect and preserve the Lalbagh Kella (fort) in old Dhaka as per the High Court order.

The demand came at a human chain programme titled "Evict the illegal grabbers of the historic Lalbagh Kella." Save the Environment Movement and Bangladesh Scouts - Dhaka Zilla Rover jointly organised the human chain, said a press release.

Grabbers have already built nearly 30 structures beside the northwestern wall of the fort, said speakers.

A number of residential structures have been built within the fort boundaries as the government officials do not pay heed to the situation, they added.

The High Court, in October, directed the government to demarcate the fort area through a survey and remove all private structures from there within three months.

The speakers demanded immediate eviction of the illegal structures in compliance with the HC directives.

Cancel housing project on 'Chhoto-Dighi-Jalashoy'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists yesterday demanded the government to cancel illegal housing project on 'Chhoto-Dighi-Jalashoy', a small wetland at Demra in the city, and on its adjoining playground and graveyard as per Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka.

They also demanded complete implementation of the DAP and stopping the filling up of wetlands in the area.

The demands were placed at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city.

BAPA President Prof Mozaffer Ahmad presided over the programme while General Secretary Dr Md Abdul Matin and Md Sirajul Haque, on behalf of the people of Demra, spoke on the occasion.

Speakers claimed that 'Textile Chhoto-Dighi-Jalashoy' of ward number two in Demra is under the DAP. But a section of people from Textile Ministry Officer Worker Cooperative Samity Limited planned and started to fill the wetland.

They also said according to Bangladesh environment protection law of 2010 and the act to save playgrounds, parks and open fields of 2000, filling up of waterways and construction of structures in fields is strictly forbidden.

Textile Ministry Officer Worker Cooperative Samity Limited violated the laws by taking steps to fill the 'Chhoto-Dighi-Jalashoy', says a press release.

They demanded a ban on selling of 'Chhoto-Dighi-Jalashoy's' land documents and to take measures against the corrupt buyers and sellers of the land.

Faridpur Assoc AGM held

METRO DESK

The annual general meeting of the Greater Faridpur Service Holders Welfare Association was held at Kendria Kachi Kachar Mela auditorium yesterday.

Zahid Hossain, president of the association, was in the chair.

The meeting elected an executive committee for the next two-year.

The newly elected executive committee members of the association are -- Ashrafal Mokbul, president, A K M Nuruzzaman, the general secretary and Fayzul Kabir, the treasurer.

Speedy war crimes trial demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting to mark the death anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal yesterday demanded accelerating the war crimes trial process.

They also demanded more active participation from the law enforcers to stop the rising number of stalking and sexual harassment incidents against women, says a press release.

Shamajik Protirodh Committee organised the memorial meeting at Central Shaheed Minar. It may be mentioned that the death anniversary of Sufia Kamal was on November 20.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President

Ayesha Khanam presided over the meeting.

Sultana Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government and daughter of Sufia Kamal, said Sufia Kamal was one of the leading people to go for women's and human rights movement in Bangladesh.

Human rights and democracy was violated several times and one of the main reasons is that we could not try the war criminals, she said.

Karmajibi Nari President Shirin Akhter, Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury and Nari Muktijoddha Shangsad Vice President Prof Mamtaj Begum, among others, spoke at the meeting.



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