



Aei Banglay theatre group performers stage Sabuj Pari, a street drama, protesting the government's "repressive role" against Rab victim Limon Hossain, in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday.

PSC with ConocoPhillips condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations yesterday strongly protested the government's signing of a production-sharing contract (PSC) with US-based oil company ConocoPhillips for oil and gas exploration in two deep-sea blocks.

They urged the people to launch tougher movement for cancellation of the contract, which they say, goes against the national interest.

In a statement, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh (RWPB) leaders said the government has broken its promise to ensure energy security. It is a threat for both national security and energy security, they said.

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) leaders called upon the government to strengthen state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) and Pterobanga to explore the country's oil and gas resources.

Jatiya Mukti Council in a separate statement also condemned the PSC signing.

Implement funds for environment

Demands Bapa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday demanded government's effective initiatives to implement the proposed allocation of national budget for the environmental sector.

This year's budget is more environment-conscious compared to past budgets. But the government should be more cordial and take necessary measures to implement it for this sector's development, said Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad.

He was speaking at a press conference styled "How much environment-friendly is the proposed national budget 2011-2012" at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the city.

Prof Muzaffer also stressed the need for awareness of local government and the central government to implement all projects included in the latest budget.

Corruption is a disease, affecting the environment sector the most. So this sector's allocation should be utilised in a transparent way, he said.

He alleged that wealthy people of society is responsible for destroying the environment by polluting rivers and deforestation.

"The government took initiatives to build four-lane roads. But no large project was initiated to restore navigability of rivers," he said.

Reading out a written statement, Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin placed a 10-point recommendation for development of this sector and to minimise climate change induced vulnerability.

Recommendations include budgetary allocation for construction and repairing of dams in coastal areas; effective steps to popularise solar and wind energy; restricting use of insecticides and restoring organic quality of soil; stopping commercialisation of water resources; and protection of rivers, forests and bio-diversity.

Bapa Vice President Prof Nazrul Islam and Joint Secretary Shahjahan Mridha Benu were also present.

Withdraw cases against Limon

Govt urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Songkhubbho Nagorik Samaj, a platform to protect human rights, yesterday demanded withdrawal of cases against Limon Hossain who lost a leg in Rab shooting late March.

At a protest rally, they also demanded strong security for 16-year-old Limon and his family members, and punishment of the accused.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), on March 23, mistook Limon, a college student, for a criminal and shot him in the left leg at the village of Chhaturia in Jhalakathi.

The leg was amputated.

The same day, Rab-8 Deputy Assistant Director Lutfur Rahman filed two criminal cases against Limon and some others with Rajapur Police Station.

Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, Prof Rahnuma Ahmed, and workers' leader Mosrefa Mishu, among others, attended the rally held in front of the city's National Museum.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 30th death anniversary of Ehsan Ul Haque Md Al Mahfuz, a naval cadet and son of

AM Ataul Haque, a former acting chief of the Bangladesh Navy, says a press release.

He passed away at Combined Military Hospital in Chittagong after four days of joining the Bangladesh Navy in 1981.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

BSF tortures 3 cattle traders

Hands over two other Bangladeshis after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three Bangladeshi cattle traders, tortured and left unconscious by Border Security Force (BSF) of India on Thursday night at Dhannokhola village of Benapole, were admitted to a local hospital in critical condition yesterday.

They are Saiful Islam, 35, Shahin Ali, 30, and Julfikar Ali, 32, of the village. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)

Commander Mosharraf Hossain on Thursday night said BSF of Sutiya camp caught the three returning to Bangladesh with cattle through Dhannokhola border.

Meanwhile, our correspondent from Kushtia reports: BSF handed over two Bangladeshis after abducting them eight hours ago from Chuadanga border on Thursday.

The two are Dilu Sheikh, 40, son of

Joynal Sheikh, and Asadul Islam, 36, son of Laltu Mia, residents of Joynagar village in Darshana.

BGB-35 Rifle in Chuadanga said a BSF team from Gede camp in Jalangi thana in West Bengal picked up the men working at a banana orchard on Bangladesh near pillar no 76 around 12:30pm.

BGB and BSF sat at a flag meeting and the men were handed over.

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