Stop building all dams

Two organisations urge India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon India to immediately stop building all sorts of dams, including the controversial Tipaimukh dam, as it will adversely affect the environment, agriculture and bio-diversity of Bangladesh.

They also urged the people of Bangladesh and India to raise voice against the Tipaimukh dam for the sake of their own existence.

Haoranchalbashi and Janaodhikar Andolan, two social organisations, arranged the discussion styled "Tipaimuk Dam, Killing of River and Ecological Catastrophe" at Sangskriti Bikash Kendra in the capital.

Risi Dalai, editor of the magazine Charbak, said the Farakka Barrage experience was not good for Bangladesh. "So our statement is clear: stop construction of all sorts of dams," he added. When the developed countries are destroying their dams

admitting its adverse impact on environment, the third world

countries are going for it. This cannot be acceptable, said Risi Dalai. Hasnat Quaiyum, a Supreme Court lawyer, said people of Bangladesh and India would be affected once the Tipaimukh dam is constructed. "Hence we must jointly wage a movement

against it." M Inamul Haque, former director general of Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board, said people needed to be made aware of the adverse impact of the Tipaimukh dam.

Humayun Ahmed's works recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers yesterday recalled the life and works of illustrious writer and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed at a condolence meeting in Chittagong city.

The programme began with placing of flowers at his portrait at Muslim Institute.

Prof Anupom Sen, vice chancellor of Premier University Chittagong, said the way people paid their tributes and expressed their love for Humayun was really unthinkable. He had achieved that all for his masterful storytelling, he said.

In honour of Humayun, Kabari Sen Gupta and Alauddin Taher preformed four songs which had been written by the deceased author.

Prof Jamal Najril, Prof Mahbubul Alam, Editor of the Daily Azadi MA Malek and journalists M Nasirul Haque and Rashed Rauf, among others, spoke on the occasion.

About 45 cultural organisations jointly organised the meeting under the banner of Humayun Ahmed Nagorik Shokshova Committee Chittagong.

Humayun Ahmed died in New York on July 19.



stranded outside Bashundhara City, a shopping mall in the capital, due to a dearth of public transports. With Eid-ul-Fitr around the corner and yesterday being the first weekend of the month, people rushed to different markets to get their shopping done, causing traffic congestion in many roads. The photo was taken around 4:30pm yesterday.

Shoppers left

Implement Phulbari contract fully

Demands oil, gas committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday urged the government to completely implement the Phulbari contract, which bans open-pit mining, and expel Asia Energy to protect the country's mineral resources.

Addressing a press conference at the committee's Purana Paltan office in the capital, they also urged the country's people to observe Phulbari Day on August 26.

On the day in 2006, three people were killed and 200 others injured after the then Bangladesh Rifles and police opened fire at demonstrators protesting against the open-pit coalmine project of Asia Energy at Phulbari.

The committee Convener Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah said, "Phulbari's people who protested against Asia Energy

taught us how to protect our national resources from the exploitation of both foreign and local thugs."

He demanded the government enact a law restricting export of mineral resources.

The committee General Secretary Prof Anu Muhammad said, "Observing Phulbari Day is an important part of our struggle to establish the people's ownership and control over the country's resources."

He said the consultants, mass media owners, bureaucrats and ministers who were working for Asia Energy would go down in history as traitors.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Ruhin Hossen Prince of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Zonayed Saki of Gono Sanghoti Andolon and Mosharraf Hossain Nannu of Communist League of Bangladesh were present at the programme.

2 children drown in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Two children drowned in a pond in Baluakandi area under Gozaria upazila of Munshiganj yesterday.

The victims were identified as Fahim, 5, son of Faruk Hossain and Rimu, 3, daughter of Badal Mia.

While playing, cousins Fahim and Rimu fell into the pond adjacent to Badal's house, said police.

The family members recovered the bodies from the pond and took them to a local health complex where on duty doctors declared the children dead.

Check food adulteration

Bapa urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon yesterday said the price hike of daily essentials and adulteration of food were causing people to suffer.

Some dishonest food producers and businessmen were mixing different chemicals, hazardous for human health, in food items to attract customers, says a press release. The leaders said these at a rally in the capital's Kawran

Bazar where they were distributing leaflets among shopkeepers and customers to create awareness about the health hazards of food adulteration.

They also placed an eight-point demand, including punitive measures to stop production, marketing and sale of adulterated food, regular government drives against food adulteration and enactment of a consumer rights protection act.

The leaflets were also distributed in Mohammadpur, Azimpur, Palashi and Chawkbazar areas.

