

Ban on open pit mining demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday urged the government to ban open pit mining by December 31, and stop the Rampal power plant project to protect the Sundarbans.

Addressing a press conference at Mukti Bhaban in the capital, the committee leaders announced that their Dinajpur unit will begin agitation programmes on November 13 demanding implementation of the Phulbari contract and eviction of Asia Energy from the country. Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the organisation, said the committee's Khulna and Bagherhat units will organise protest programmes within this month against the coal-based power plant at Rampal.

"If the government remains inactive till November 28, the committee will go for tougher actions," he said.

Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, the committee's convener, said, "The Rampal power plant was designed despite reasonable opposition from experts and locals."

"If the project is for the country's development, why should the government be afraid to assess its environmental impact?" he added.

Referring to a home ministry circular on open pit mining, Shahidullah said, "The people of Phulbari are very angry over the government's pro-corporate stance. We urge the government to withdraw the circular disseminated in four upazilas of Dinajpur."



Dhaka city Awami League holds a rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital yesterday, with a call to resist Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir so that they cannot foil the on going war crimes trial.

PHOTO: STAR

JAMAAT-SHIBIR ATTACKS ON POLICE

Khaleeda gave support

Claims Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir men made guerrilla-style attacks on policemen across the country on direct support from BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia.

"Had Khaleeda Zia not helped them, Jamaat-Shibir wouldn't have dared to launch such attacks to press for release of their leaders facing war crimes trial," he said. The Jamaat-Shibir men are trying to make their last-ditch effort at a time when the war crimes trial is drawing to a close, he added.

"But their [Jamaat-Shibir] time has finished. We have to stay united until the verdicts against war criminals are executed," he told a rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital.

Ashraf, also minister for LGRD, said the

war crimes trial had come to a near end and verdicts would be delivered within a few days.

He also called upon the opposition leader to change her position by severing relations with the anti-liberation forces, Jamaat and Shibir, if she claimed to be the wife of a freedom fighter and be on the side of pro-liberation forces.

Dhaka city AL organised the rally protesting Jamaat-Shibir men's recent attacks on law enforcers in more than a dozen districts for three consecutive days till Wednesday, which left more than a hundred policemen injured.

Speaking on the occasion, Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir asked AL leaders and workers to catch Jamaat-Shibir men wherever they are found and hand them over to police. He also said police would not show tolerance for Jamaat-Shibir any longer, as he directed them to go tough.

UNFPA essay competition ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of educational institutions across the country articulated their opinions on population and development in an essay competition organised by UNFPA.

The competition styled "Population and Development 2012" was launched on July 11 through Facebook and came to an end yesterday with an award-giving ceremony held at a hotel in the capital, where the top essay writers were recognised, said a press release.

The main objective of the online competition was to involve and engage the youth in disseminating messages on population, development and reproductive health, said UNFPA country representative Arthur Erken.

A total of 325 essays, exploring topics such as Millennium Development Goals, women empowerment and maternity mortality situation in Bangladesh, were submitted for the competition.

Winning Tk 20,000 each, the four participants received first prize for their essays are Shegufta Armin Hasan of Vigarunnisa Noon School, Rose Lee Chakma of Rangamati Govt Girls High School, Abdullah Hasan Safir of Notre Dame College, and Kaisar Ahmed of Chittagong Cantonment Public College.

Prominent writer Anisul Haque was present at the ceremony among others.

Buddhist leaders meet PM

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of Buddhist monks, who are participating in an international peace conference in Dhaka, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official Gono Bhaban residence yesterday evening.

Suddhananda Mahathero, Chairman of Bangladesh Bouddha Krishti Pracher Sangha, led the 49-member team comprising monks from 10 countries, including Bangladesh.

The prime minister said that equal rights of people of all faiths have been ensured in Bangladesh for maintaining peace through the 15th amendment to the constitution.

Hasina said people of all religions are living together peacefully in Bangladesh.

In this regard, she mentioned the celebration of Durga Puja, Eid-ul-Azha and Probarana Purnima with due religious fervour and festivity.

She also mentioned her recent visit to a historic pagoda in Vietnam as well as her meeting with Buddhist monks there.

Hasina wished the international peace conference's success.

The delegation members expressed their happiness over the existing religious harmony in Bangladesh.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua and Awami League Advisory Council Member Pranab Barua were also present.



Discussion

Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati will hold a discussion and views exchange meeting demanding raise in labour wage; Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan; Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies will organise a two-day national workshop on protection of labourers' rights; Venue: Hotel-71, Nayapaltan; Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Gono Oikya will hold a discussion on war crimes trial; Venue: Liberation War Museum Auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Citizens' rally

Nagorik Sanghati will arrange a citizens' rally demanding an end to ethnic violence in Myanmar;



The winners of an online essay competition styled "Population and Development 2012", organised by the UNFPA, with guests at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

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Very attractive and competitive salary & benefits with assurance of career progression and prestigious position will be offered to the really deserving candidates.

Interested candidates are requested to send their complete resume (CV) with 2 copies of recent passport size photographs to **Box No.: D-01, C/O: The Daily Star, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215** within 7 (seven) days of publication of the advertisement.

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

স্পেস্ট্রা গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান প্রকৌশলী খান মোঃ আফতাব উদ্দিন এবং ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান প্রকৌশলী খালিদ হোসেন খান এর মাতা **মিসেস সাহিদা খানম (৮৫)** গত ০৭ নভেম্বর ২০১২ইং রোজ বুধবার রাত ০৯:০৬ মিনিটে রাজধানীর ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি -----রাজিউন)।

তার মৃত্যুতে স্পেস্ট্রা গ্রুপের পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহতায়ালায় কাছে মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত ও চির শান্তি কামনা করছি।



স্পেস্ট্রা গ্রুপ

কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিল

আমরা গভীর শোকের সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, স্পেস্ট্রা গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান প্রকৌশলী খান মোঃ আফতাব উদ্দিন এবং ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান প্রকৌশলী খালিদ হোসেন খান এর মাতা **মিসেস সাহিদা খানম (৮৫)** গত ০৭ নভেম্বর ২০১২ইং রোজ বুধবার রাত ০৯:০৬ মিনিটে রাজধানীর ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি -----রাজিউন)।

মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনার জন্য আগামী ১০ নভেম্বর ২০১২ইং রোজ শনিবার বাদ জোহর মরহুমার নিজ বাসস্থান মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার শিবালয় থানার নালী গ্রামে কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিল এবং ১২ নভেম্বর ২০১২ রোজ সোমবার বাদ আছর স্পেস্ট্রা গ্রুপের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে (বাসা-১৭, রোড-১০৬, ব্লক-সিইএন(এফ), গুলশান-২, ঢাকা-১২১২) দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।

মরহুমার সকল শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষী, আত্মীয়স্বজন ও গুণগ্রাহীদের উক্ত কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিলে উপস্থিত থেকে তার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ করছি।

নিবেদক

মরহুমার শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারবর্গ