

TREE-FELLING IN KCC AREA 14 environmental organisations stage sit-in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Following the felling of over 25 trees in Khulna city on Wednesday, 14 environmental organisations staged a sit-in yesterday, protesting the incomprehensible action.

The crowd gathered at the city's Notun Rasta Mor, the spot from where it all began, at 11:30am. The protest was presided over by Kudrat-E Khuda, president of Paribesh Suraksha Manchho.

While various efforts are underway worldwide to protect trees, KCC decided to chop down numerous trees on the five-kilometre Sonadanga Mujgunni road, mentioned the speakers.

Stressing the importance of considering environmental harms while planning development projects, Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Khulna, said, "Ironically, these trees are being felled in the name of beautification and development. We are not objecting to development. However, the authorities need to ensure that no trees will bear the burden of this."

Earlier, KCC mayor had acknowledged the incident and said the trees were cut as they were causing damage to the road dividers. Yesterday, he denied the allegations saying, "I am currently in Dhaka for training and know nothing about the felling of trees on the Mujgunni highway. I will look into the matter after I return home."

"We don't want to see a single tree being felled from now on. We would urge the authorities concerned to be very considerate before cutting any tree in the city corporation area. Instead, they should plant more trees," he added.

Nazmul Azam David, director of Paribartan, said, "KCC is felling local trees like banyan and replacing them with Jhau plants. However, can birds build nests on Jhau trees and will they provide shade to the pedestrians and commuters? This madness needs to stop immediately."

Shariful Islam Salim, general secretary of Humanity Watch; Mahub Alam Badsha, executive director of Chaya Vriksha; Abdulla Al Mamun, regional coordinator of Transparency International Bangladesh; Marina Juthi, director of IRV; and Asif Iqbal, secretary general of Khulna Development Forum, also spoke at the event.

Following Wednesday's incident, SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Hundreds of students of Bogura Government Institute of Health Technology stage a sit-in on the road in front of the Mohammad Ali Hospital in the town from noon yesterday, demanding the arrest of a former Chhatra League leader.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

TORTURE BY EX-BCL LEADER Students block road in Bogura Demand arrest of accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogura*

Hundreds of students of Bogura Government Institute of Health Technology (IHT) yesterday blocked the highway in front of Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogura town, demanding the arrest of former Chhatra League leader Sajal Ghosh.

The protesters began the roadblock from 12:00 noon and was still continuing it at 8:00pm while filing of this report. Commuters suffered due to the prolonged roadblock as the students only allowed ambulances and other vehicles carrying patients to pass through.

Institute Vice Principal Omar Farooq, and Bogura Sadar Circle Additional Superintendent of Police Sarafat Islam went to the spot to convince the students to return to campus but failed.

The students alleged that Sajal, former organising secretary of Bogura district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, took over a hostel room of the institute illegally despite being an outsider by using his political influence and has been using the room to torture students there for the last 12 years.

The students also complained that Sajal used to bring external goons to the room and has thereby created a reign of terror on the entire campus. Sajal also allegedly SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

RAMPAL POWER PLANT 29,630 tonne coal arrives at Mongla port

STAR REPORT

A ship carrying 29,630 tonnes of coal for the Rampal Thermal Power Plant has docked at Mongla port from Indonesia, reports UNB.

A Panamanian cargo ship arrived there early yesterday.

The unloading of coal from the vessel has already started.

This shipment of coal had previously set sail from Indonesia on August 15, with 53,630 tonnes of coal bound for Bangladesh. Earlier, 24,000 tonnes of coal were offloaded at Chittagong Port. The remaining 29,630 tonnes have now arrived at Mongla.

Khandakar Riazul Haque, assistant manager (Khulna) of Mss Togi Shipping and Logistic Limited, the local shipping agent for the vessel, confirmed that unloading of the coal began promptly upon arrival at the port.

After the completion of the unloading process, the coal will be transported to Rampal Power Plant via lighter vessels, he said.

On August 28, another Panamanian cargo ship delivered 30,950 tonnes of coal for the Rampal Power Plant at Mongla Port.

In 2010, India and Bangladesh jointly initiated the construction of the thermal power plant after initiating Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt) Limited. An



agreement was signed between Bangladesh Power Development Board and India's NTPC Ltd on January 29, 2012.

On September 6 in 2022, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the first unit of the plant amid protests from environmentalists over possible threats to the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

Missing from Savar, journo found in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Savar*

Tapu Ghoshal, a staff reporter of Dainik Bangla 71, was rescued by police from an abandoned location in Chattogram's Sitakunda area yesterday, a day after he went missing from Savar, said Tofayel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Model Police Station.

He said Tapu Ghosal was lying sick on the roadside, in an abandoned place around 11:00am. He was recovered and given first aid. His family have been informed.

Ziaur Rahman, staff reporter of RTV working in Savar, said Tapu went out from his home in Savar's Dakshinpara around 3:30pm on Saturday, saying he was going to Aminbazar to cover a story. After 4:30pm, his mobile number was switched off.

Following the incident his family filed a GD with Savar Model Police Station.

'Pay our dues' Jute mill workers in Khulna stage protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Workers of privately owned jute mills in Khulna city demonstrated yesterday by blocking a railway track and adjacent road to press home their six-point demands, including payment of dues as per labour law, and reopening of jute mills that have been shut down.

Five private jute mills -- Mohsen, Afil, Sonali, Ajax, and Jute Spinus -- in Shiromani Industrial Area of Khulna city have been closed for years and authorities of the mills have not paid arrears of the workers yet.

Agitated workers under the banner of Private Jute, Yarn and Textile Mill Workers' Federation organised the blockade programme on the rail track and adjacent Khulna-Jashore Highway in Phulbari Gate area under Khan Jahan Ali Police Station from 10:30am till 12:30pm.

Speakers at the programme said that, according to the decision of the meeting held at the District Commissioner's Office, no goods will be brought from the mill area until the mill workers are paid all their arrears. However, the mill authorities are selling the goods after taking those out at night.

Besides, hundreds of workers of the private Mohsen Jute Mill have not been paid their dues even after nine years. Workers of Sonali, Ajax and Afil jute mills are also in facing a similar situation, they said.

The workers alleged that the mill owners are taking crores of taka in bank loans showing SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Making an earning in a fun way

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, *Pabna*

Villagers of Purandar, a remote village in Pabna's Faridpur upazila, quickly finish their household activities and rush to the field, hoping to participate in a game show where they can win various prizes.

SS Food Challenge, a YouTube channel, organises various game shows in rural areas, where villagers get an opportunity to participate in various competitions to win prizes in the form of food support.

"If anybody participates, they will get rice, flour, lentils, edible oil, sugar, noodles and various other food items as prizes," said Omar Sunny Somrat, founder and owner of SS Food Challenge.

Somrat, an entrepreneur from Faridpur upazila of Pabna, created the SS Food Challenge channel in 2021, with the innovative idea of creating a game show for subscribers' entertainment. He also wanted to give an opportunity

to villagers to win prizes and find entertainment.

"We organise game shows twice a week in different villages. We have already organised these competitions in 30-40 villages in Faridpur and adjoining upazilas in last two years," he said.



We change traditional games to make new ones to attract viewers. All the games are made by our creative team. Participants are not hired, rather villagers themselves participate for prizes and for the fun of it, he added.

The villagers shared that this type of game show not only helps SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



After suspension of services for over two days following an accident that injured at least 16 students of the Chittagong University, the shuttle train services finally resumed at 3:00pm yesterday. Despite such incidents, locals were seen loitering around the tracks while the train was approaching. A few even sat on the tracks, ignoring the risks. The photo was taken from the port city's Sholoshohor Rail Station.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ঢাকা-১০০০ Fax: 88-02-55167810 E-mail: vcoffice@du.ac.bd, registrar@du.ac.bd ঢেভার বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
মেমো নং: প্রকৌশ/বিদ্যুৎ/১১৪/ক(২)				
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ক)	Supply and Installation of light, fan & necessary electrical fittings on rental basis at Central Play Ground for Special Convocation-2023, University of Dhaka. সিডিউল মূল্য= ৪,০০০/-	১৮/০৯/২০২৩ ঢাকা কালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চাহ বিঃ।
খ)	Supply and Installation of sound system & other ancillaries on rental basis at Central Play Ground for Special Convocation-2023, University of Dhaka. সিডিউল মূল্য= ২,০০০/-	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ ঢাকা কালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চাহ বিঃ।
গ)	Supply and Installation of LED Wall (P 3/P 5), LCD TV & other ancillaries on rental basis at Central Play Ground for Special Convocation-2023, University of Dhaka. সিডিউল মূল্য= ৩,০০০/-	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ ঢাকা কালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চাহ বিঃ।
বিঃ দ্রঃ- 'ক' থেকে 'গ' উল্লেখিত কাজগুলি OTM পদ্ধতি।				
অভ্যাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী বিদ্যুৎ (জোন-১/ক) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়				
জিডি-১৩৮৩				

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ক)	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of New air cooler (01 No. Split type 54000 BTU/HR Capacity), instead of old unserviceable air cooler at Conference Room (North) of Nabab Nowab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University at Dhaka. সিডিউল মূল্য= ২,০০০/-	২৪/০৯/২০২৩ ঢাকা কালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	২৫/০৯/২০২৩ দুপুর ২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চাহ বিঃ।
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