

BAROPUKURIA COAL MINE
JS sub-body to probe project 'irregularities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The parliamentary standing committee on energy and mineral resources ministry at a meeting yesterday formed a sub-committee to probe alleged allegations of financial irregularities in the Baropukuria Coal Mine Development Project.
 Baropukuria Coalfield discovered by Bangladesh Geological Survey Department in 1985 is situated in the northwestern part of the country in the district of Dinajpur. Petrobangla completed necessary survey in 1990 and found that about 70 million tonnes of high quality coal that is worth over Tk 22 thousand crore, can be recovered from the coalfield.
 Shahidul Islam, chairman of energy and mineral resources committee, will head the five-member sub-committee. It will visit the project

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Rolling waters swamp 80 villages in Magura

Floods in full fury in Jessore, Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Floodwaters rolling from upstream India yesterday swamped about 80 villages in Magura district and fresh areas in the already flooded two other southwestern districts, inundating roads, homesteads, educational institutions, crop fields and fish farms.
 Reports received from the flooded districts -- Satkhira, Jessore and Magura -- said inundation of people has forced thousands of people to move to different flood shelters.
 Officials at the Flood Warning Centre said the situation in the southwestern region has taken a serious turn due to continued swelling of the rivers Kapotakkha in

Jessore and Shukti in Magura. Moreover, driving rain has caused flash floods in many areas of Noakhali district.
 Our Magura correspondent reported that at least 52 villages in seven unions of Salikha upazila and 26 villages in three unions of Sadar upazila went under water yesterday as the river Fatki continued to overflow its banks. At least 50,000 people have been marooned.
 Surging floodwaters have inundated Magura-Bunagati road at Kullia point and Salikha road at Singra, snapping vehicle movement.
 More than 15,000 families have moved to 40 flood shelters in Salikha and Sadar upazilas.
 The flood has damaged about 2,000 kutcha houses, aman crops on around 3,900 hectares and washed away fish worth about Tk 20.27 crore, officials said.
 It also damaged 13 schools and nine madrasas, locals said.
 The worst-affected villages include Kachuaubi, Bashkhali, Ramkrishnapur, Chapra, Sonpur, Azampur, Amuria, Kullia, Borosolay, Batikabari, Ashba, Kuchiamora, Dhaneswargati, Singra, Thoipara, Maniknagar, Dighi, Srikantapur, Volugram, Kapashati, Bhabanhati and Tila.
 Our Satkhira correspondent reports: Miseries of the flood-hit people in three upazilas have increased due to waterlogging and lack of relief operation.

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BTTB limits int'l call duration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The state-owned Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has introduced call limit for subscribers in the wake of revenue losses due to non-payment of international call charges by a section of subscribers.
 The BTTB has fixed the call limit to 20,000 call units per month for all subscribers, it said in a statement.
 The call limit will be Tk 30,000 per month on an average, a BTTB official explained.
 Subscribers who do not want call limit should apply to the divisional engineer concerned with photocopy of six months' paid bills to have customised call limit or get the limit withdrawn. The divisional engineer

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US-led forces pound Fallujah: 8 dead

4 Marines, 7 Iraqis killed in attacks; website claims execution of British hostage

AFP, AP, Fallujah
 Eight people were killed and 11 wounded overnight when US forces again used artillery and planes to pound the rebel stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, hospital sources said yesterday.
 "We have received eight dead, including a woman and three children, and 11 wounded," Doctor Suheib Mahmud, from Fallujah's general hospital, told AFP.
 US forces pounded insurgent

positions with artillery fire late Friday and through the night and carried out an air strike on a house in the Dhubat neighbourhood at 4:00 am (0000 GMT), witnesses and an AFP correspondent said.
 The US military confirmed in a statement that it had carried out operations overnight in the restive city and said the air strike targeted a hideout for militants loyal to Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi.
 The airforce "conducted a strike inflicting a blow to the Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi terrorist network by conducting a precision strike on a known terrorist meeting site in central Fallujah," a statement said.
 "Intelligence sources reported that Zarqawi terrorists were using the site to plan additional attacks against Iraqi citizens and Multi-National forces," the statement said, adding that no civilians were reported in the area at the time.
 Zarqawi is thought to head the Tawhid wal Jihad organisation

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Prof Muzafer Ahmad, top centre, moderates a roundtable on 'Political Reform in Bangladesh' co-organised by Shujan and The Daily Star yesterday. Former cabinet secretary Mujibul Huq, bottom right, shares his views, with Prof Ahmad and Dr Kamal Hossain sitting on his right.

4 family members of minister's APS die in car crash

UNB, Thakurgaon
 Four members of the family of a minister's assistant private secretary (APS) were killed and the APS and his car driver injured in a road accident at Kabirajhat on the Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway early yesterday.
 Police and witnesses said State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, on an official tour, was coming to his home district Thakurgaon from Dhaka. His APS Rezwanul Haque Abu, along

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Cheetah 'crossfire' kills 'killer' Bhutto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Kajem Uddin Bhuiyan alias Bhutto, a close aide to top terror Kala Jahangir, died yesterday in what the police said was in a crossfire between criminals and a 'Cheetah' team 24 hours into his arrest.
 Four policemen were injured in the shootout and the police seized a .22 bore revolver, two bullets, three cartridges and one misfired bullet abandoned by the criminals.
 Bhutto, known as 'Killer' Bhutto, is accused in 14 cases, including a dozen for murders, registered with Kafrul, Mirpur, Tejgaon, Cantonment and Kotwali police stations.
 The Cheetah team, led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nazmul Karim Khan of the Detective Branch (DB), arrested Bhutto at Paikpara in Mirpur on Thursday.
 On his statement, a combined force of four teams recovered a .22 bore revolver and two bullets from

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Six student organisations sit with DU today to end crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Leaders of six opposition-backed student organisations will sit with the Dhaka University (DU) authorities today to resolve the crisis arising out of an indefinite strike they enforced on September 12.
 They called the strike following the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's (JCD) attack on their rally on the campus on September 11. They have made a seven-point demand including expulsion of the attackers and resignation of the DU proctor.
 The student bodies enforcing the strike are the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-backed BCL, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, Jatiya Chhatra Dhara, Jatiya Chhatra Oikya and Bangladesh Chhatra Samity.

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DCC to demolish old houses soon

BSS, Dhaka
 Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will soon embark on a plan to demolish old and dilapidated houses under the vested property.
 The decision was taken at a meeting at Nagar Bhaban with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.
 DCC Chief Executive M A Momen, the deputy commissioner of Dhaka, Ward Commissioner Abul Bashar and officials concerned were present.
 Talking to the news agency, the chief executive said a good number of houses under the vested property has become dilapidated which might collapse anytime.
 He said the meeting decided to prepare a list of the dilapidated houses soon and demolish those as soon as possible.

Prayer Timing		
September 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	6-00	6-05
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

PM opens Novo Theatre

UNB, Dhaka
 A rare opportunity opened up for science-enthusiastic people to acquire practical knowledge of the stars and solar system as Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the country's first planetarium.



PHOTO: PID

"No nation can proceed on the highway of the present world of development without application of knowledge and science and innovation of new technologies," the prime minister said while opening the planetarium named Bhasani Novo Theatre.
 Built at a cost of Tk 120 crore, the project has been jointly implemented by the Ministry of Science and Information Communications Technology and the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.
 The planetarium houses three exhibition halls where evolution process of the animal world will be on display. A 250-seat lecture hall will be used for holding seminars and symposia on issues pertaining

Planet show after the inauguration yesterday.
 to science and technology.
 The 1.25 lakh-square feet planetarium with fountains, food shops, lobby, library and audio-video units, has a parking space of 1.5 lakhs

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Rab nabs suspected abductors with SMG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
 Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of Chittagong in separate raids in the city early yesterday arrested two persons for suspected links to an abduction and recovered a sub-machine gun.
 Of the arrestees, Mohammad Musa Khan Manik alias Manik Khan, 30, is younger brother of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre Morshed Khan. Morshed is among the top terrorists listed by Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).
 A team of Kotwali police assisted the Rab members in capturing Manik from a house in Hathazari

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