

BARAPUKURIA MINE  
Chinese worker  
dies while  
extracting coal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Chinese worker died and a local worker was seriously injured at the Barapukuria coal mine while extracting coal on Saturday night.

Official sources said Jang Beting, 40, an employee of Chinese CMC that is operating in the mine, missed his step and fell into a pile of coal at the mine's phase 1109 at 1,400 feet depth. He was crushed by a huge pile of coal and died on the spot.

His co-worker Mostafizur Rahman was seriously injured at that time.

A rescue team rushed to the underground and recovered Beting's body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and

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Hijbut men  
threaten judge  
over leader's  
remand order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Activists of an Islamist group, Hijbut Tawhid, threatened Magistrate Abu Sayeed for placing the group's district commander Jasim Uddin on a five-day remand.

A gang of five people claiming themselves as members of the group entered the magistrate's room on Friday and threatened him of dire consequences if he did not grant bail to Jasim arrested on Thursday from Hybotnagar of the town.

Sub-inspector Main Uddin of Kishoreganj Police Station said during the investigation Jasim admitted that he worked as a district commander of the Islamist group.

Extortionists  
shoot shop  
employee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed extortionists shot at a shop employee in the city's Kathalbagan area while muggers stabbed a plastic goods wholesaler at Shyamoli yesterday.

The injured, Fazlul Haque, 45, an employee of a scrap materials shop at Kathalbagan, and Hazi Ahmed Hossain, 35, a plastic trader of Chawkbazar, were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Fazlul told reporters at the DMCH that two youths came to the shop at 8:15am and looked for the owner Joyнал Abedin Khandakar. On not finding him, they demanded toll from him.

"As I told them that the owner did not leave any money for them, one of the youths shot me twice in the right leg," Fazlul said.

In another incident, four criminals waylaid a rickshaw carrying Ahmed Hossain near Shyamoli cinema at about 9:30am and stabbed him twice in the throat and neck.

The criminals left the place hurriedly as Ahmed cried for help.

Police suspected that the criminals meant to mug him.

Police could not arrest anyone as of 7:00pm.

8 more US  
troops killed  
in Iraq

AP, AFP, Al-Asad Air Base

Iraq's prime minister and two top American officials flew to the blistering western desert Saturday in a rare joint outing to highlight gains there in the fight against insurgents, hours before the military reported the deaths of eight US troops.

One of those killed, a Marine, died in combat in Anbar province, once the site of some of the fiercest fighting in the country and where the US ambassador, the American commander in Iraq, and the Iraqi leader travelled Saturday.

The Sunni-dominated province has grown calmer in recent months with the flowering of a new alliance among Sunni tribal leaders, the Iraqi government and US led forces, but peace continues to be elusive as the death Saturday of the Marine demonstrated. "We are not saying Anbar province is all sweetness and light, there are still a lot of challenges," said Gen David

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Govt makes U-turn  
to allow 38 foreign  
TV channels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Making a U-turn from its earlier position the government yesterday gave permission to restore transmission of some 38 foreign TV channels that had been blacked out for the previous six days.

The number of TV channels with permission for transmission and downlink now rises to 79.

The 38 TV channels include 12 pay channels and 26 free to air channels. This number might increase in future, sources said.

The 12 pay channels are Star One, Disney, Toon Disney, Set Max, SAB TV, Travel & Living, Ten Sports, AXN, Zee Bangla, Zee Studio, Zee Premier and ETV Bangla, while 26 free to air chan-

nels are Al Jazeera, DD News, DW, Peace TV, Movie 1, Movie 2, DD Sports, Real Madrid, IRB, AJK, Al-Jazeera Sports, Zee Music, VOA, Zoom, GEO, NHK, Ptv World, Aajtak, Bloomberg, Arirang, DD Bangla, DD National, Zee Smile, TV5, Saudia and Qtv, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) sources said.

The government took the decision after a meeting with COAB at the information ministry.

"After meeting with COAB, we have recommended giving permission to transmit some TV channels," Additional Secretary to the Information Ministry Sayed Hasinur Rahman, who chaired the meeting, told The Daily Star.

Asked about the criteria for banning TV channels, he said, "The

TV channels that did not take prior permission from the government were barred from downlink and transmitting."

The government on Tuesday decided to ban downlink and transmission of all the TV channels except 12 local and 29 foreign channels.

The decision deprived the viewers of watching some popular TV channels like Qatar-based Al-Jazeera, India's Doordarshan, NDTV, HBO and Ten Sports, creating much dissatisfaction among people including foreign citizens.

Different quarters criticised the government decision saying that depriving viewers suddenly of such channels is in effect taking away

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Ctg mayor sued  
for using CCC  
funds to set up  
TV channel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and three others were sued yesterday for causing Tk 1.47 crore loss to the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) in their illegal bid to set up a TV channel.

Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Chittagong Arif Siddiqi filed the case with Kotwali Police Station. The CCC mayor is already in jail.

Other accused in the case are CCC Chief Engineer Muktarul Alam, CCC Superintendent Engineer Md Shahidullah and Director of Group Theatre Institute of Chittagong Ahmed Iqbal Hyder.

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EXTORTION CASE

Hearing on  
Tarique's bail  
prayer June 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 14 for hearing on a bail petition of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman in connection with a case filed against him for extorting Tk 4.89 crore from a construction firm owner.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date following a criminal appeal filed by Tarique's lawyers.

On May 4, Syed Abu Shahed Sahel, an owner of construction firm Aclron, a sister concern of Reza Construction and Al-Amin Construction, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun.

Mamun gave a confessional

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Gunrunner  
killed in Rab  
'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A notorious arms and drug dealer was killed during a "shootout" between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and armed cohorts of the dealer at Kalizira on the outskirts of Barisal city early Sunday morning.

The dead was identified as Abdul Azim Howladar alias Fensi Azim, 29.

Rab sources claimed a Rab team, on secret information, raided Majid Mia brick kiln at Gurgobari of Jagua under Barisal Sadar Police Station around 3:30am.

Realising the presences of law enforcers, Azim's accomplices opened fire on the Rab team and a gun battle ensued. After the exchange of more than 60 bullets, the criminals retreated leaving Azim's body on the spot.

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Announcement

The transcript of the proceedings of a roundtable on "Education and Human Right" held in Dhaka on April 28, 2007, will be published with tomorrow's issue of The Daily Star.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha yesterday demolished a market illegally built on a piece of land belonging to Roads and Highways Department on Mirpur Road at Shyamoli in the capital.

India win Test  
series too

SPORTS REPORTER

India clinched the two-match Test series 1-0 with a massive innings and 239-run win over Bangladesh in the second and final match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

After the rain-hit first Test in Chittagong was drawn, India who had clinched the one-day series 2-0, withstood cameo performances from vice-captain Mohammad Ashraful and all-rounder Mashrafe Bin Mortuza on the third day to dismiss Bangladesh for 253 in the second innings. India had amassed 610-3 before bowling out the Tigers for 118 in their first innings and forcing a follow-on in home coach Dav Whatmore's farewell match.

Ashraful cracked the fastest fifty in Test cricket as he took only 27

minutes to reach the landmark, beating the previous best by Englishman JT Brown who took a minute more.

Ashraful also joined Shahid Afridi (Pakistan v India in 2004-05) and Ian Botham (England v India in 1981-82) to score the second fastest fifty in terms of balls, taking only 26 deliveries. But his knock ended when he chipped the ball straight to man-of-the-series Sachin Tendulkar at mid-wicket on 67 off 41 balls. He peeled off a dozen exquisite boundaries and struck two scintillating sixes. Mashrafe struck 70 off 68 balls, laced with eight fours and three big sixes but none of the two innings actually had any effect on the match, as it only delayed the inevitable.

Left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan

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Very weak structure  
led to subsidence

Says probe body on Dayaganj building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-member inquiry committee formed to probe the subsidence of the six-storey building at the city's Dayaganj found the concrete structure of the building 'very weak' after primary investigation.

"We don't often see this type of incident. The columns were very weak and this is really very unfortunate," a probe body member told The Daily Star yesterday.

Members of the committee supposed to submit its report within a week visited the spot yesterday.

"We just witnessed the demolishing work. We would test the soil, materials and rod to find out the reasons behind the incident," said Mehedi Ali Khan, chief engineer of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

"Before conducting the tests we

cannot make any comment," Khan added.

He said the committee members checked the southern part of the building and found no problem. "We are only demolishing the northern part which subsided," added the chief engineer.

Khan said families, who used to live beside the six-storey building and returned home following their evacuation just after the incident, can stay without any risk.

Meanwhile, the construction firm of the building, Atik Construction, has already drawn Tk 45 lakh, which is 15 percent of the total bill, Tk 2.90 crore. Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka also admitted the fact.

According to a DCC source, the firm, allegedly owned by a leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, BNP's youth

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Charges framed  
against Alamgir

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday framed charges against detained former state minister for planning and Awami League (AL) leader Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in connection with a graft case.

Two other special courts recorded statements of six prosecution witnesses in two graft cases against former state minister Mir Nasiruddin, his son Mir Helaluddin, and detained former state minister Aman Ullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Third Special Court--set up at Shere-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel--rejected the discharge petition submitted by Alamgir's lawyers and fixed May 29 for trial of the case.

Alamgir pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the judge read out the charges brought against him in connection with the

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Ex-MP Naser,  
wife sued for  
concealing info  
in wealth report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a graft case against former BNP leader and lawmaker M Naser Rahman, son of former finance minister Saifur Rahman, and his wife Rizina Nasery yesterday.

ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan filed the case in the Gulshan Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant said that Naser Rahman and his wife did not mention properties worth Tk 4.90 crore in their wealth statements that they had submitted to the ACC.

The case was filed under section 26(2) and 27 (1) of the ACC Act 2004, section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules 2007 and section 109 of the Penal Code.

Naser, who is in jail now, is a charge-sheeted accused in a Tk 2 crore extortion case filed by contractor Nuruzzaman in Sylhet on February 16.

PALTAN KILLINGS

Probe report on  
Hasina to be  
submitted today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A probe report on the involvement of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and 45 others with the Paltan killings on October 28 last year will be submitted today.

Suspending the operation of arrest warrants issued on April 22 against Hasina and two others, a Dhaka court on the next day ordered a further investigation into

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Prayer Timing		
May 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35
Source: Islamic Foundation		



PHOTO: STAR

The public works ministry has planned to build a market at this site on Mirpur road-11 chopping down trees. Members of Gono Commission, an environmentalist group, and residents of Mirpur section-2 visit the unmarked place yesterday.