

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 Joynal 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 Sunnis-dominated province has grown calmer in recent months with the flowering of a new alliance among Sunnis, 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, Ajitak, 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 Sayeed 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's 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 Aclrcn, 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 Kalizora on the outskirts of Barisal city early Sunday morning.

The dead was identified as Abdul Azim Howlader 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 presence 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*.

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PHOTO: STAR

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirpakkha 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

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 Amanullah 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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Gridlock at Chairmanbari on Airport Road in the capital yesterday. The situation remained the same for several hours since the morning rush hour.

## Row over bird flu compensation

SHEIKH SABIHA ALAM

Poultry farm owners have expressed dissatisfaction over fixation of the compensation provided by the government for the chickens and eggs that have been recently culled due to bird flu virus infection.

While the farm owners said different aspects including weight and buying cost were not considered in fixing the compensation, Khalilur Rahman Siddiqui, additional DG (Livestock), said the rates were fixed after proper scrutiny and discussion with the stakeholders.

The government is giving Tk 70 for a layer chicken, Tk 60 for a broiler, Tk 15 for chicks under three months and Tk 3 for an egg.

He said the government should have separate guidelines for compensating the poultry farms and

US troops free 41 from 'Qaeda torture camp'

APP, *Baghdad*

three-month old, some were on production, and some weighed 2.5 to 3 kg, the farm owners said.

On Thursday, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur Mohammad Mizanur Rahman disbursed cheques worth Tk 853,895.00 among four farms -- Bibi Ayesha (R) Women Training and Production Programme (BAWTP), Bhai Bhai Poultry Farm, Sumon Poultry Farm and Dula Poultry Farm.

BAWTP Assistant Director Mahabub Rashid said they imported the layer chicks from Canada and paid Tk 263 for each but the government is giving Tk 70 for each chicken irrespective of their weight.

"As we came upon this thing, we had the captors or whoever was holding them flee the scene. We immediately secured the area and got the prisoners or those that we rescued to safety," he added.

The camp was holding 41 people, all thought to be Iraqi civilians, many of them showing signs of

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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.

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   |
| Magrib        | 6-43  | 6-47   |
| Esha          | 8-05  | 8-35   |

Source: Islamic Foundation