



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 75

DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 30, 2008

www.thedailystar.net

People's Right to Know

Plus Star Campus

RABIUL AWAL 21, 1429 HIJRI • 28 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: TK 10.00

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

# Tk 128cr loss in 2 years

SHARIER KHAN

Due to massive project cost escalation and low coal production, Barapukuria coal mine has incurred a loss of Tk 128 crore since it started production two years back, according to a Petrobangla

losses for around six years even if it maintains a healthy coal producmaintains a coal sales rate of \$70 million tonnes for 30 years. The

pany's report, it incurred a loss of Tk 52 crore in fiscal 2005-06 and Tk 2000. 77 crore in 2006-07.

forever," said the source. "According to a proposal, the coal sales rate may be increased to 95 dollars in 2010. With such a rate, if the mine can produce around eight lakh tonnes of coal a year, the mining production cost almost tripled. company will reach its break even

doubled the project cost to Tk 1,600 crore while the annual production target nose-dived to 800,000 tonnes a year. As a result, the coal

Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) of Petrobangla, coal production cost was \$91 per tonne in fiscal 2005-06 and \$84 in 2006-07. Since the mine went into operation, the governtion rate and the government production target was set at two ment had set coal sales price at \$60

> tion cost that was imposing huge supposed to start operation in loss on the company, the BCMCL had been asking the government to But the Chinese Supplier's increase the coal sales price. The

with poor project implementation tee that included members of Petrobangla, the BCMCL and the main consumer of coal Power months ago. Based on the committee's recommendation, the gov-According to Barapukuria Coal ernment increased the sales price to \$70.

> reduce further from this year due to steady production," said a high

#### 5 held for theft of rail clips

Involvement of railway staff suspected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government Railway Police (GRP) yesterday arrested five people in connection with the theft of 3,510 metal clips of train lines in the capital Friday and one of them admitted to police his involvement in the act.

Railway officials and investigators suspect involvement of lowlevel serving and retired railway staffers in the theft which put at least 17 trains at risk of serious

ble to steal such a large number of metal clips of around 1.5 kilometres of track without their [current and retired railway workers] involvement," said a top railway

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

#### TRUTH COMMISSION

# Anti-graft bodies, court to send corrupt people

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF

The Truth and Accountability Commission will have the power to hold closed-door hearings on corruption or corrupt practices in certain cases, although there will be provision of public hearings.

The draft of the proposed law, "Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance, 2008" says the Commission may "It would not have been possi- hold such hearings if there is a "likelihood" that an open hearing will result in harming the person concerned.

> The Commission may also hold such a hearing on appeal of the person who has made the volun

tary disclosure before it.

Though someone taking the advantage of voluntary disclosure will not have to serve in jail, they will be awarded up to five years if

Commission to work for six months

Can summon a person independently

Can hold closed-door hearing First 30 days to apply for voluntary disclosure

Five years' jail for not complying order

they commit the offence of not complying with the commission

In case of the closed-door hearings, no-one else will be present at such proceedings or any part of it, says the draft. Besides, there is a provision in the draft to have legal representation subject to the permission of the commission.

Every member of the threemember commission will preserve and take part in preservation of the confidential matters as identified by the ordinance or the commis-

The much-talked-about Truth Commission will be constituted for SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

5-POINT DEMAND

#### AL to observe hunger strike next month

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) will stage a daylong mass hunger strike across the country next month to press for its five-point demand that includes announcement of election schedule and release of detained party chief Sheikh Hasina.

The decision came from a daylong meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) held at the party's Dhanmondi office with Acting President Zillur Rahman in the

The three other demands are: Bringing down high prices of essentials, trial of war criminals and improving the law and order.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Acting AL General SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

#### Trial of war criminals must for democracy

Freedom fighters say STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trial of war criminals is a must, not just drive against corruption, to ensure justice and democratic rule in the country, speakers said at a reception given to freedom fighters vesterday.

They said it is unfortunate that the state has so far failed to bring to justice the war criminals who worked against the birth of the country and killed freedom fighters, the best sons of the soil.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Nou Commando Association organised the reception at the Jatiya Press Club in the city where twenty-five freedom fighters and dignitaries were accorded reception for their valiant role during the Liberation

Speaking as the chief guest at the event, Air Vice Marshal (retd) and deputy chief of the liberation

point in 2014-15." When the mine project was The mine will continue to incur approved in the early nineties, production cost of coal was estimated at \$35 per tonne and annual

original project cost was less than According to the mining com- Tk 800 crore, and the project was

"But it will not incur losses Credit financial package coupled

But because of this high producgovernment had formed a commit-

Development Board (PDB) several "But the production cost will

From early this year, the mine has been steadily performing so well that it has almost completely filled up its coal yard having a storage capacity of 1.3 lakh tonnes. On an average, the mine is producing 3,000 tonnes of coal daily

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## India hikes rice price Govt to supply 15pc to \$1,000 per tonne

Importers find it prohibitive; India finally offers \$430 for import at govt level

STAR REPORT

India increased minimum price for export of non-basmati rice to \$1,000 per tonne from \$650 but food ministry officials believe this move would not have any major impact on Bangladesh.

negotiating rice price with Bangladesh officials left for India yesterday, finally offering the export price of per tonne of rice at \$430 at government level.

The Indian team also asked the Bangladesh authorities to inform the Indian side about their decision on import of four lakh tonnes of rice from India by this month.

An Indian commerce ministry notification signed by its additional secretary IK Gujral fixed the Meanwhile, the Indian team new price for non-basmatirice. Food Secretary Mollah

> Waheeduzzaman told The Daily Star that Bangladesh has food reserve for three months and Boro SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

of April rice need distribution programme were STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will supply 15 percent of the country's requirement of rice next month through various safety net programmes amid continued price escalation.

Food Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman yesterday told The Daily Star that the government would inject around 2.8 lakh tonnes of rice into the market through these programmes.

According to Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPM) statistics, the annual demand for rice in the country is 2.55 crore tonnes with the monthly requirement being 21.25 lakh tonnes.

The overall food situation and

reviewed at a high level meeting yesterday at the food ministry with the food secretary in the chair. Meanwhile, an emergency

meeting of the Advisory Committee on Purchase is scheduled for today. Food ministry sources said the proposal for procuring four lakh tonnes of rice from India will be placed at the meeting. Wahiduzzaman said that of the

2.8 lakh tonnes of rice, 2.58 lakh tonnes will be distributed through open market sale (OMS) and vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programmes.

The meeting at the food ministry decided that the government SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Onlookers crowd the closed-off street in Motijheel yesterday after the under-construction building City Centre developed large cracks.

to be an office block-cum-multi-

storey car park on a Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) land. It is a joint

venture involving Orion Group,

Chartered Bank.

ones' and 'not at all risky'.

project director from the realtor.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

### Motijheel skyscraper Story of a develops cracks before completion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The under construction 37-storey City Centre at Motijheel has developed cracks in its walls, prompting police yesterday to evacuate people who live or work in the building and the adjacent area.

The cracks in a front wall were far, 28 storeys have been built and a first noticed about one and a half months ago. Suddenly, they started widening yesterday afternoon, setting off panic in the commercial neighbourhood. Besides, a side wall on the ground floor curved in precariously, security guards and construction workers told The Daily Star.

with yellow tape and closed off the road between Shapla Chattar (roundabout) and Dainik Bangla Intersection as precaution.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3 | developing the high-rise designed

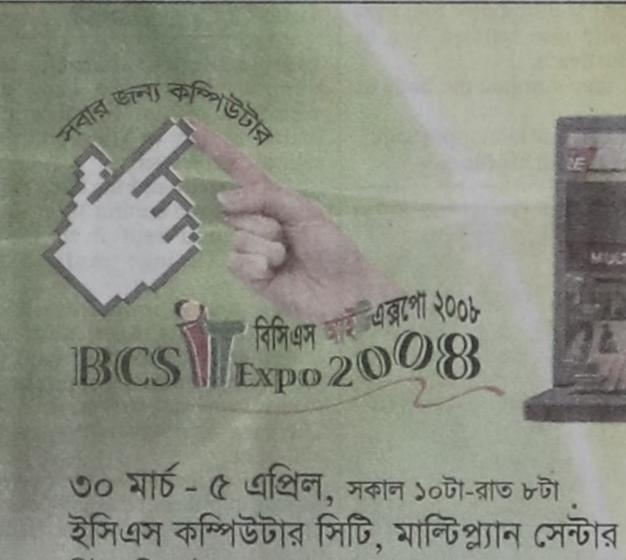
skewed deal PINAKI ROY

Top officials of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) helped Belhasa Accom JV Ltd, a UAE-based joint venture with Obaidul Karim's Orion Group, to get the project for constructing City Centre, the tallest commercial tower-cum-car parking in the country.

which is owned by Obaidul Karim, a businessman infamous for scam. An investigation by the task The construction is scheduled : forces into the tender process of for completion by next month. So the project revealed huge corrup-: tion immensely benefiting couple of floors rented out to differ- : scamster Obaidul Karim while ent companies including HSBC, incurring a loss of at least Tk 50 Grameenphone and Standard crore to DCC, said a source in the

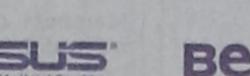
city corporation. Officials of Belhasa Accom Blessed by the BNP-led fourdescribed the cracks as 'ordinary : party alliance government, Obaidul's companies bagged "Those are in the makeshift : dozens of large-scale deals on own walls and won't affect the main : terms even without having appro-Later, police marked the site structure," said AKM Nurul Islam, a : priate qualification. The 37-storey City Centre is one such ongoing

A huge crowd of onlookers project. gathered at the site as police and : "The tender was floated in a way firemen struggled to make them : so that the authorities can Belhasa Accom JV Limited is move away. Earlier, offices housed; announce any company as SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

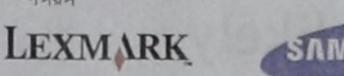


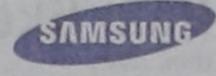
निष्ठ धिनकानि त्राष, पाका

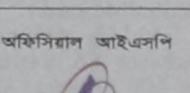
বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার সমিতি তথ্য প্রযুক্তি শিল্পের জাতীয় সংগঠন www.bcs.org.bd



Beno







আইসিটি বিজনেস প্রোমোশন কাউন্সিল

বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

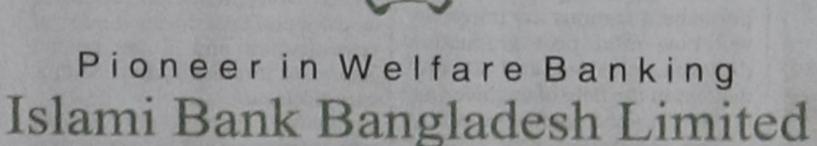
Completing

years of Success & progress stepping towards prosperous golden future

Best Compliments & Gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank, concerned different Govt. bodies, all of our Honorable Shareholders, Account Holders, Valued Business Partners Well wishers & all the people of the country

Services of Islami Bank are at your doorstep

Islami Bank My Bank



www.islamibankbd.com



Based on Islamic Shari'ah