NATIONAL

Record coal

extracted at

Barapukuria

Smooth running of

power plant stressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) on Saturday made a

new record by extracting the highest

quantity coal in a day since it started

The mining authorities feared

that the coal yard might be filled up

within next month, creating a

threat of 'spontaneous combus-

tion' of coal if two units of the

technically-flawed 250megawatt

(MW) power plant is not run con-

The mining company extracted

4,475 metric tonnes (MT) of coal

from Coal Phase-1104 on Saturday.

Miners have been extracting coal

from the phase at the pace of

4,100MT coal per day for the last

The two-unit power plant,

commissioned in December 2005,

seldom ran except for the period of

Since January 2008, the power

The two units consume 2,000

plant was shut down 11 times

either for technical glitches or

tonnes of coal daily if they operate

scheduled maintenance.

10 days, mining officials said.

June and July 2006.

operation in 2005.

GULSHAN GRENADE BLAST IN SYLHET

Mufti Hannan among 6 Huji men charge-sheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday filed charge sheet against outlawed Harkat-ul-Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and five other Huji men in the case for much-talked grenade attack in front of Gulshan Centre in Sylhet city four years ago.

Investigation officer Inspector Zubayer Ahmed of CID, Sylhet submitted the charge sheet with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court for the incident that claimed the life of an Awami League leader and injured about 40 others.

Sylhet Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran escaped unhurt it as he had left the scene min-

out of Gulshan Centre at about 8:00pm of August 7 in 2004, a grenade exploded on the premises of the multi-storied hotel. City AL's

died in the hospital while 40 others sustained wounds. Several people had to take treatment abroad for months and a few others became crippled. The blast also destroyed two cars on the spot.

The then senior ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman of CID was made the investigation officer, who managed a so-called confessional statement from Belal Ahmed, a guard of a house adjacent to the hotel. Belal in his statement hinted the grenade was thrown by a bearded man like Ibrahim.

Following the attack, law enforcers arrested expatriate AL leader SM Nunu Miah from the hotel and about 30 others including Jubo League and As a meeting of the city AL Chhatra league activists, trigended and party men were coming gering much commotion among the AL's rank and file. The arrestees were, however, later released on bail.

After Munshi went on retire-

Inspector Zubayer was made investigation officer, who later claimed major development in the investigation.

He told The Daily Star yesterday that the statement given by Belal is not at all acceptable while expatriate AL leader SM Nunu Miah and several other arrestees had no link with the grenade attack.

"Charges against eight people in connection with the case have been established. We submitted charge sheet against six people while one is dead and the other's whereabouts could not be known,"

Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and his accomplice Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul had already given confessional statement in said. this regard, sources said.

Mufti in his statement before a Dhaka court and Bipul in his statement in a Sylhet court said the attackers wanted to crush the AL

publicity secretary Md Ibrahim Ali ment in October last year, leadership in Sylhet region. The plan of attack was taken at a house at Badda in the capital while Mufti Hannan was the main planner.

The six charge-sheeted accused are Mufti Abdul Hannan, Abu Zandal alias Mufti Main Uddin, Mufti Hannan's brother Muhibullah alias Mofizul Islam alias Ovi, Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul, Delwar Hossain Ripon and Humayun Kabir Himu. The first five people are in jail while Himu had been absconding, the charge

sheet said. Accused Ahsanullah Kajol earlier died. Another accused Fakhrul Islam Fahim has been missing. He would be included in the charge sheet after getting his whereabouts, Inspector Zubayer

About 50 party men including city AL Secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj gave their statements before the law enforcers in this

properly. Khagrachhari dist BNP convening body dissolved

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari District BNP convening committee which was formed by some BNP leaders on September 9 was dissolved yesterday following protests from Wadud Bhuiyan's group, party sources said.

The 11-member convening committee was formed to operate party activities in eight upazilas ignoring former law maker Wadud Bhuiyan and other dedicated leaders, they said.

District BNP press secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam, in a press release issued here yesterday, declared abolition of the committee. The committee was dissolved

as most of party leaders protested its formation causing division in party, he said. Wadud Bhuiyah also suggested dissolution of the 11- member

committee locally known as Belayet-Salam-Nazrul committee, sources said. The committee was formed at a

meeting held at the residence of Khagrachhari Hill District Council chairman Monindra Lal Tripura where 'corrupt' Ramghor Upazila BNP president Belayet Hossen Bhuiyan was made its convener, they said.

Belayet Bhuiyan came out of jail on August 10 after being granted bail in 18 corruption cases.

Pirates rule coasts as shoals of hilsha in water

Prices fall by Tk 100 per kg following good catches but 35 trawlers looted, 30 fishermen abducted in 5 days

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Hilsa fishes are being netted in plenty in Patuakhali and Barguna coasts for last four days but fishermen are afraid of going to the Hilsa (over 1 kg apiece) was sold sea due to rampant piracy.

were looted and 30 fishermen abducted by pirates in last five says. The victim fishermen brought freedom after payment of ransom and returned to

Kakata and Pathorghata coasts. With arrival of boatloads of Hilsha, both fishermen and traders are busy; and fish landing stations and markets are abuzz.

have also come down in local said at least 300 trawlers from trawler owners said.

Prices of the delicious fish

the area are busy netting Hilsa in

Mohipur daily with Hilsa. "We are getting Hilsa as per our expectation since Friday, said Fazlu Gazi, president of fishing trawlers owners association in Mohipur.

Five to ten truckloads of Hilsa leave Mohipur for Dhaka and bordering areas of Khuna, Jessore and Benapole with export 50 kilometres southeast of shortage of vessels.

Nimai Chandra.

This correspondent while visiting Mohipur yesterday saw one mound (40 kgs) of big size at Tk 10,500 to 12,000, which was At least 35 fishing trawlers Tk 14,000 to 14,500 a week back. Prices of Hilsa less then one kilogram was Tk 10,000 to 11,500 a maund, which was Tk 11,500 to and a made pipe gun. 12,000 two days back.

In local markets, per kg Hilsa is sells at Tk 250 to 300, which was Tk 350 to 400 two days back.

Fishermen and traders said the prices would reduce further if piracy can be stopped.

were kidnapped and 12 trawlers were looted in the deep sea,

one crore was looted in fishes, Thirty to forty trawlers reach nets, fuel and cash from 12 trawlers. Ten fishermen were abducted and 13 injured in the attack on trawlers that included FB Sapan, FB Rakib and FB Mayer

> kidnapped 14 fishermen from 10 fishing trawlers on the sea about

consignments, said its secretary Pathorghata in Barguna coast. The looted trawlers included FB Janasi, FB Molla, FB Mohima and

FB Kabir. On September 14, a pirate was killed in a fight with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) at Pathorghata under Barguna when the gang was preparing for piracy. Rab members recovered a revolver

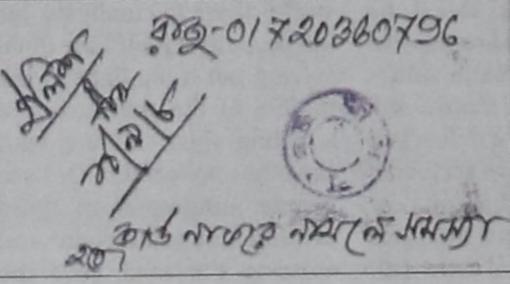
Piracy increased as lots of Hilsa are netted now, said Abdus Salam, president of trawler owners association in Mohipur.

The victim fishermen said pirate gangs have introduced 'token' for trawlers, which have On Saturday, six fishermen to be collected after meeting their demands.

They showed a token in which name of the trawler is written on one side and signature of the issuing person on the other side.

When contacted, Maj. Habibur Rahmab of Rab-8 in Patuakhali, said, "We are trying our best to nab the pirates.

A Coast Guard official in Bhola told this correspondent over cell On September 17 pirates phone that a drive against pirates would be launched in the Bay soon. He however said they have





Huge hilsa being unloaded from a trawler at Patharghata fishing ghat in Barguna district, top, two sides of a 'safety token' that pirates issue after realising toll from a trawler.

First Jatiya Mahle

Rajshahi today **RU CORRESPONDENT**

Festival in

Leaders of indigenous Mahle community in Rajshahi have demanded constitutional recognition of their rights and protection of their lands from grabbers.

Mahli Adibashi Artho-Samajik (socio-economical) Unnayan Sangastha (MASAUS) and Mahle Dighar Baisi Bangladesh on Sunday jointly held a press conference at Rajshahi Press Club where their leaders announced that the first Jitiya Mahle Festival will be held on Monday at Baganpara village in Godagari upazila.

There are around 30,000 Mahle indigenous peoples in the country they said.

Vast lands fallow for want of a culvert

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

In absence of a culvert on a road of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), serious waterlogging has affected Sanjabpur village in Kamalganj upazila under the district.

Thirty-five acres of paddy field and several dwelling houses have already been damaged due to the waterlogging, villagers said.

Due to the situation, this year farmers have left much of their Aus and Aman paddy lands uncultivated and it caused loss of several lakh taka. Affected farmers Alkas Ali, Tajul

Islam, Salam Miah, Mokaddas Ali, Mujahid Ali and Tajammul Ali said they have submitted applications to Moulvibazar deputy commissioner, Kamalganj upazila nirbahi officer and RHD executive engineer at Moulvibazar several times to solve the problem.

One of them said he received 'unwanted behaviour' from the executive engineer of RHD at Moulvibazar when he went to submit an application on September 18.

When this correspondent tried to contact with the Executive Engineer of RHD over telephone two times, he received phone calls but soon the connections were cut.

Contacted, Kamalganj UNO Musammat Hazera Begum said she will take steps to solve the waterlogging problem in Sanjabpur village.

Party men boycott 'reformist' ex-BNP MP Anwar in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Majority of BNP leaders boycotted a party meeting of Chatmohor unit of the party called by 'reformist' leader and former lawmaker Anwarul Islam on Saturday, party sources said.

This was the first meeting of the party unit, held at his residence, since allowing political activities.

Former MP KM Anwarul Islam, elected from Pabna-3 constituency, was accused in several cases including one for misappropriating government CI sheets. Taking the permanent bail from the High Court, the former MP came to Chatmohar and started political activities again. But most party leaders boycotted the meeting, joint forces recovered CI sheets

branding him a reformist, the sources said. Anwarul is also president of Chatmaohar upazila BNP.

"Most BNP leaders here boycotted Anwar as he sided with reformists", said party leader Mohammed Ali, chairman of Chatmohar Upazila Parishad.

At least 40 leaders holding party posts in the upazila including vicepresident Sultan Mahmud, joint secretary Ismail Hossain, law affairs secretary Gias Uddin Chairman boycotted the meeting,

"Former MP Anwar is a reformist. So mainstream BNP leaders and activists boycotted him", said Md. Gias Uddin.

Anwar went into hiding after

from his house. Later, some cases were filed against him. Mof Chatmohar municipality

and president of Chatmohar Uoura BNP Md. Abdul Mannan said Anwar does not belong to the mainstream of BNP. So he has no relation with the party mainstream, he said. Twenty-five to thirty activists

loyal to him attended the meeting, When contacted, Anwar refuted the allegation. "Most of the party

men took part in the meeting", he Some party men who do not like

me boycotted the meeting. He said party chief Begum Zia ordered all to work together for the coming national polls.

BNP-Jamaat try to dominate Satkhira Red Crescent

Life members want cancellation of Sept 25 meet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The life members of Satkhira Red Crescent Society at a meeting yesterday protested convening the general meeting of local Red Crescent Society by its local officials violating the constitution.

The so-called general meeting was called at Kharibilla, about five kilometres off the district town, to form the unit committee with local leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat, they said at the protest meeting at Satkhira Press Club.

Most of the life and general members are yet to get notice of the meeting announced for September 25 as BNP and Jamaat leaders who are still working as its officials are hatching conspiracy to form the committee with leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat, they said.

Similar case happened during the rule of immediate past BNP Jamaat-led alliance rule, they said.

They urged the government and central Red Crescent Society authorities to stop the meeting that was convened to form a partisan

local BNP-Jamaat leaders' move to

politicise the reputable interna-

tional organisation.

committee. They also urged people to resist

They said acting president of the society Dr Shahidul Alam, also a central leader of BNP-backed organisation DAB, a, distributed 1,500 forms to district Jamaat secretary Nurul Huda, BNP leaders Sirajul Islam and Asduzzaman Asad who secretly enlisted their party activists as general members.

Dr Shahidul Alam who got BNP ticket to contest postponed parliamentary election on January 22 last year from Satkhira-4 (Kaliganj-Debhata) constituency is an aspirant to contest the next election. Speakers at the meeting at

Satkhira Press Club urged the life

members to join another meeting on the same venue today to chalk out further course of action. They said they will submit a memorandum to the chief adviser to the caretaker government tomorrow to press home their

demand. Among others, advocate Abdur Rahim, Firoz Ahmed, Sheikh Nizam Uddin, Ramkrishna Chakraborty, M Kamruzzaman, Saiful Karim Sabu, Ruhul Quddus, Mostafizur Rahman Ujjal, Kazi Moina, Sheikh Touhidur Rahman Dablu addressed the meeting presided over by Prof Abu Ahmed.

The meeting also formed a 13member action committee with advocate Abdur Rahim and Prof Abu Ahmed as convenor and member secretary to resist 'the conspiracy'.



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Water remains stagnant in vast areas of Sanjabpur village in Kamalganj upazila as the adjacent RHD road

lacks a culvert.