# Coal import thru' four land ports suspended

UNB, Sylhet

Import of coal from India through four land stations in Sylhet division remained suspended since Thursday due to a government ban on import of coal containing over one percent sulphur.

The ban was imposed on coal import through Tamabil and Sheola land stations in Sylhet and Borochara and Charagaon land ports in Sunamganj, rendering around 25,000 workers job-

Sylhet Coal Importers Group Samity sources said coal containing over one percent sulphur was banned as per the import rules of Commerce Ministry in 2003.

But the traders were Australia is expensive. importing coal having nearly two percent of sulphur content following stay on the order for six times. The stay order was also extended for a year in 2008.

As the timeframe of the stay order ended on June 30, coal

import from India was suspended on July 1.

Local coal traders said if import of coal is stopped, more firewood will be needed for brick kilns, resulting in increased felling of trees, which is a threat to environ-

They said the brick kilns and steel mills depend on imported coal.

Director of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former president of Coal Importers Group Kolonder Ali said Barapukuria and other coalmines could not fulfil the country's demand.

He said if the coal import is stopped it would affect the forest resources. Besides, coal import from Indonesia or

He said that this ban should be withdrawn for at least two years until any alternative arrangement is made. Otherwise, an unstable situation would be created in energy sector of the country, he added.

### Journo beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A journalist was beaten to death by some unidentified criminals at Uttara in the city yesterday.

The victim, Nurul Islam Rana, a reporter of the fortnightly magazine Mukta Mon, came under attack when he was going to his office at Uttara around 7:30pm.

Rana might have been killed for his report on illegal activities at a cyber café, which was published in the magazine last week, said another journalist Ibrahim Sarkar.

Critically wounded Rana was rushed to a private hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, the police recovered the body of a woman from Crescent Hospital at Uttara around 7:00am yester-

The woman was identified

Towhidul Islam. Her mother Papia Begum filed a murder case against Towhidul and his two brothers Rafiqul Alam and Shafiqul

as Afroza Parveen Juli, wife of

Police arrested all the three. Papia alleged that her daughter was killed over dowry.

## Ctg port to introduce automated container delivery system

UNB, Dhaka

Chittagong Port, the lifeline of the national economy, is going to introduce computerised Container Terminal Management System (CTMS) in a bid to streamline its oper-

"Once implemented, the project will boost its capacity as a world-class port in the truest sense. It'll be nice to have more technological development," a port official

As part of the government's port modernisation plan, the project is likely to be implemented by the middle of 2010 bringing all container terminals under a single network which will surely bring wider facilities for the port users through ensuring transparency in all steps of container delivery, officials said.

said, will automatically monitor the entire process of container delivery -- from arrival to release -- apart from preparing invoice bills.

The port users or owners of mented," he said.

containers will be able to pay bills from their offices through the online system.

ST Electronics, Singapore, Navis America and Psion Teklogix are jointly working on the technology-based project funded by the Asian Development Bank.

CTMS is a total system package developed on the basis of technology through system integration for container terminals using information technology.

Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Commodore RU Ahmed told UNB that the system would make the port operation more efficient and ensure cent percent transparency in container handling.

The project director, who wished not to be quoted, said the system, if implemented, would reduce the vessel turn-The system, the officials around-time though improved ship operation efficiency. "The vessel turnaround-time is now 2.4 days and it'll come down to below one day if the project is imple-



elected Bishop Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Barisal yesterday.

### Indian govt approves \$239m for South Asian University

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

The Indian government has approved payment of 239.39 million US dollars for setting up the South Asian University.

The approval of the amount, which is about 79 percent of the total cost of the full establishment of the university by the year 2014, was given at a meeting of the cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Thursday.

India is ready to disburse the first tranche of its financial commitment of 9.46 million US dollars to ensure that the university is operational in July-August of 2010, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni told reporters on the same day.

The university, proposed by Singh at the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka two years ago, will be the first international university to be hosted by India.

state and non-profit anivers sity are to disseminate and advance knowledge, wisdom and understanding by providing instructional and research facilities in various branches oflearning.

The objectives of the non-

The jurisdiction of the university would cover entire India and campuses and centres established in other Saarc region.

One hundred acres of land next to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi has been earmarked for the South Asian University.

## 30 war crime suspects sued in Bagerhat

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UNB, Bagerhat

30 suspected Rajakars in Morelganj on charges of killing 11 freedom fighters and looting houses during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Morelganj police recorded the case as per the direction of the court on Thursday night. Freedom fighter Munsur

Ali of Khejurbaria village filed the case with the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

In his case statement, Munsur Ali alleged that the A case has been filed against accused picked up 11 freedom fighters from different areas of the upazila during the period from March 26 to December 16 in 1971 and shot them dead.

> They also looted houses and set fire to them during the liberation war.

> With this case, a total of 24 cases have been filed against some 417 war criminals with six police stations of the district on charges of killing 82 freedom fighters.

## APARTMENT FOR SALE AT Gulshan

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Debajit Das, managing director of Aggreko International Power Projects Ltd., and ASM Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Bangladesh Power Development Board, cut a cake to celebrate the first anniversary of Khulna 40 MW Rental Power Plant at a city hotel on Thursday. On their right are ASM Waliullah, director of Infradev Associates, and Sarafat Chowdhury, senior vice-president of Infradev.

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## Son commits suicide after killing father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

under the wheels of a train doctor declared him dead. yesterday after he had stabbed his father to death at Pirgachha upazila here on Thursday night. Pirgachha police identified

the wretched fellows as Ershad Bepari and his father as Amir Ali Bapari of Najarmamud village at Koikuri union.

As Amir did not agree to give money to his son, he stabbed his father indiscriminately, leaving him critically

Family members took him A young man committed to Pirgachha upazila health suicide by throwing himself complex where the on-duty

Eyewitnesses said Ershad lay down on the railway line around 4:00pm when a Lalmonirhatbound train was crossing the line a few yards away from Pirgachharailway station. Officer-in-Charge of

Pirgachha Police Station said Amir's daughter Amiton Begum earlier lodged a case against Ershad on charge of killing his father. Amiton said Ershad wanted

to go to a Middle Eastern country. He demanded Tk three lakh from her father to serve the purpose.

"My father refused to pay him [Ershad] the money. This made him quite exasperated. At one stage, he stabbed him [Amir]," she added.

## OFA Dhaka chapter executives

The installation ceremony of the newly elected Executive Committee of Old Faujians' Association (OFA) Dhaka Chapter for the term 2009-2011 was held at OFA Secretariat at Mohakhali DOHS in the city yesterday.

tive committee were elected in an election held at Cadet College Club on June 19, says a press release.

OFn Majedur Rahman, secretary general, OFA Central Governing Body, moderated the programme while Chief Election Commissioner OFn Engr Md Ruhul Matin formally declared the election results and Election Commissioner OFn Md Sayedur Rahman announced the names of the newly elected committee members.

The office bearers are President - OFn Norbert Mendes, Vice Presidents - OFn Muhammad Mustafa and OFn Lutful Hossain, General Secretary - OFn AZM Saifuddin, Treasurer - OFn Kishwar Imdad, Joint General Secretary - OFn Momin Ud Dowla, Organising Secretary -OFn Ishtiaq Ahmed Taher, Sports and Cultural Affairs Secretary - OFn Luthful Amin and Members - OFn Engr Md Shahidul Islam Miah, OFn Mamunur Rashid and OFn Tareq Ahmed Robin.

Chairman of OFA Central Governing Body OFn AH Manzoor Mannan presided



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