

## School teacher, wife die in road crash

UNB, Jessore

A school teacher and his wife were killed and their two daughters injured in a road accident in front of Navaron Forest office in Jhikargachha upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Jabbar, 38, headmaster of Jhikargachha Govt Primary School and his wife Achha Khatun, 30, of Chutipur village.

Witnesses said, a speedy bus knocked down the motorbike of Jabbar on Jessore-Benapole road killing his wife on the spot and injuring Jabbar and his two daughters critically at about 10:00am.

Jabbar along with his wife and two daughters were returning from his in-laws house. Jabbar died on the way to Sadar hospital.

His daughters Efshi, 7, and Prova, 5, were admitted to nearby Sharsa upazila health complex in critical condition.

## Tk 300cr for coalmine city at Barapukuria

BSS, Dhaka

The government has allocated Tk 300 crore as compensation to the victims of the Barapukuria Coalmine areas to establish the proposed coalmine city in Dinajpur.

Following the Memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the affected people of Barapukuria coal mine areas, Barapukuria mining authority and local government organisations, the energy ministry asked the finance ministry to allocate the amount to implement the package.

"The finance ministry has allocated this amount for rehabilitation and land acquisition purposes in the Barapukuria coal mining areas and some NGOs are also working there to implement the package", said Energy Secretary M Mohsin yesterday.

As a part of establishing the coalmine city, Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) and representatives of villagers affected due to coal mining signed a memorandum of understanding on May 14-15.

Energy ministry sources said the government will acquire 490 acres of land of the mining areas.

"The government has fixed the compensation package as per the assessment by a private organisation", Mohsin said.

The surveyor firm assess the amount for compensation considering agricultural, commercial and residential land, number of trees, cattle, poultry birds, domestic space and housing structures, school, college, religious structure, graveyard, forestry, road, canal, pond, Eidgah, bridges, electric poles, shallow or deep tube-wells etc of the affected families of Barapukuria.

"According to the survey 2,447 people are living there in 1,494 semi pucca and pucca and kuccha households," an official of Barapukuria coalmine said.

Earlier, the government announced that the affected families of coalmine areas will get compensation like the people affected by the acquisition of land for Jamuna Bridge got it.



PHOTO: STAR

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan speaks at a human chain at Muktaganga in the city yesterday. CPB formed the human chain to observe Anti-Conspiracy Day demanding trial of the war criminals and the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

## Decision on TU in RMG sector hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, expressed deep anxiety over the workers' unrest at Nippon Garment in Tongi and the incidents afterwards.

In a statement signed by its executive director Sultana Kamal yesterday hailed the government's decision to introduce trade unionism in the garment factories and urged all not to bring sweeping allegation against anybody rather investigate the incidents deeply to identify the cause and bring out solutions.

"In the news reports it was said the workers were aggrieved as the owners of the garment factory did not follow the proper steps to declare it lay-off. Police also wanted to calm the situation forcefully instead of trying to go for peaceful solutions and shot three people dead. Many people were injured including policemen," the statement said.

We have seen in the past that the owners did not follow rules and regulations, which resulted to grievances among the workers and they agitated for their demand of livelihood, the statement read.

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## Three top US army officials due in Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three high-ranking US Military commanders will visit Bangladesh this month to further strengthen security and counter-terrorism cooperation.

According to an announcement of the US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday, the military officials are: Lt General Benjamin R. Mixon, Commanding General of US Army in Pacific, Vice Admiral John M. Bird, Commander of US Navy 7th Fleet and US Marine Corps Major General Randolph D. Alles, director for Strategic Planning and Policy at the US Pacific Command, will visit Dhaka separately in November to strengthen bilateral security cooperation.

During their visit, Lt Gen Mixon, Vice Admiral Bird and Major Gen Alles will meet with the Chiefs of Bangladesh Army and Navy and senior government officials on issues related to US-funded humanitarian assistance programmes, security and counter terrorism cooperation as well as peace-keeping operations.

These visits underscore the importance of cooperation on security, humanitarian assistance and counter terrorism between our two countries, says the US embassy press release.

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