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## BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE PM talks option for open pit

### But says rehabilitation to be done first

**SHARIER KHAN**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Barapukuria coal mine might be converted into the country's first open pit mine after completely rehabilitating the local people affected by the on-going underground mining activities.

The PM said this while discussing with officials at the power ministry how to address the perennial power and energy crises. She mainly focused on the progress of power projects during the nearly four-hour meeting on Wednesday.

Meeting sources said the premier ruled out mining at Phulbari now or in the near future on political considerations.

"At one stage of the discussion, the prime minister mentioned that the land in Barapukuria mining area is already damaged and has subsided. After paying compensation to people for the loss of land and rehabilitating them, the mine could be converted into an open pit mine," one source said.

She noted that while many countries could easily implement open pit mining to extract up to 90 percent of their coal deposits, a densely populated agriculture-based country like Bangladesh could not go for such mining method so easily.

Officials say underground mining allows extraction of up to 20 percent of the deposits.

Barapukuria mine has a deposit of 389 million tonnes of coal. But the present underground mining design would allow extraction of only 30 million tonnes over a period of 30 years, and leave a 4.5-square kilometre area at least one to two metres subsided and of no use, they say.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16**



A rickshaw puller takes a nap as he finds it pretty tiring to be on the road in the scorching heat. The photo was taken in the city's Fuller Road area yesterday around 2:00pm. The maximum temperature and humidity of the capital were reported as 37.9 degrees Celsius and 26.6 percent.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 2 killed in 'crossfire'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Two alleged criminals were killed and two members of Rapid Action Battalion injured in a 'shootout' between the law enforcers and the criminals at Para Gendaria in South Keraniganj early yesterday.

Rab personnel recovered two firearms, one magazine and eight bullets from the spot.

The deceased, identified as Jahangir from Barisal and his accomplice Sohel of Shyampur area, were accused in several cases including murders and extortion filed with Keraniganj, Kotwali,

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## Warm-up for by-poll

**BNP sees criminals rush to Bhola; AL pledges for credibility**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Opposition BNP alleged that listed criminals and armed cadres from different parts of the country including Dhaka city have converged on Bhola-3 constituency to snatch the by-election results in favour of the ruling Awami League candidate.

The allegation came from BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday morning during a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office on the latest situation on the by-election to Bhola-3 parliamentary seat scheduled for April 24.

Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin

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## RU provosts protest BCL attack

**Demand punishment to culprits**

**A RU CORRESPONDENT**

Provost Council, an association of provosts of 16 Rajshahi University halls, observed work abstention yesterday demanding punishment of the BCL cadres who had attacked university proctor, Shaheed Samsuzzoha hall provost and others Wednesday night.

Prof Belayet Hossain, convener of the council, said they observed the programme protesting at the attack by BCL activists at Shaheed Samsuzzoha Hall, and demand immediate steps to punish them.

He called upon the government and the university authorities to take legal action against the BCL men.

He also threatened tougher movements if the cadres are not punished within seven days.

Earlier on Thursday night in an emergency meeting, the provosts of 16 residential halls took the decision of observing one-day work abstention protesting the incident.

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## Plane crash kills Polish president

**Army chief, central bank gov among 96 dead**

**AFP, Smolensk**

A plane carrying Polish president Lech Kaczynski and much of the country's military and state elite crashed in thick fog in Russia yesterday killing all 96 people on board in a blazing inferno.

The ageing Russian jet was taking Kaczynski and his wife, the military chief of staff and other top officers, central bank governor, deputy foreign minister, members of parliament and other senior officials to a ceremony for thousands of Polish troops massacred by Russian forces in World War II.

The Tupolev Tu-154 plane hit treetops in fog as it approached Smolensk airport in western Russia and broke up in flames, regional governor Sergei Antufiev said.

The jet came down a few hundred metres (yards) short of the runway at Smolensk's Severny airport.

"It clipped the tops of the trees, crashed down and broke into pieces," Antufiev told Russia-24 television news network. "There were no survivors." Russian news agencies said pilot error was suspected.

The wreckage was scattered in a forest with parts of it still on fire, Russian television images showed. One of the black box flight recorders was quickly found, news agencies reported.

As well as killing the 60-year-old head of state, the crash

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Lech Kaczynski

## OC closed

**He found guilty for acting against 3 Jubo League men**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira**

Officer-in-charge of Shyamnagar Police Station was closed to the district police lines yesterday amidst protest rallies and human-chains by local Awami League arranged allegedly for police torture on a Jubo League leader.

SP SM Maniruzzaman

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## EC's poll plan at stake

**It counts on govt intention to hold elections to local bodies in time**

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**

The government's foot dragging to amend laws for polls to union parishads and municipalities and reluctance to hold the DCC elections in May is likely to upset the Election Commission's plans for this year's series of elections.

The EC last February asked the LGRD ministry to amend the laws so that it could hold polls, between May and July, without re-demarcation of the boundaries of wards under union parishads and municipalities, EC officials said.

Local Government (union parishad) Act and Local Government (municipality) Act say that every ward should be demarcated maintaining no more than 10 percent population disparity among them.

To avert possible "social disorder" due to the re-demarcation of wards before the upcoming elections, EC wanted the government to amend the acts so that the EC could hold the polls without re-demarcating the boundaries and

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## Fifteen dead in Bangkok clashes

**AFP, Bangkok**

At least fifteen people were killed and hundreds injured in Bangkok in clashes between Thai security forces and anti-government protesters yesterday.

Thai anti-government protesters are holding five soldiers hostage in Bangkok after deadly clashes in the heart of the capital, an army spokesman said early Sunday.

**FULL STORY ON PAGE 7**

জনগণের দোরপোড়ায় সেবা: তৃণমূলে জবাবদিহিমূলক গণতান্ত্রিক শাসন ব্যবস্থা

জনপ্রতিনিধিদের মাধ্যমে রূপকল্প-২০২১ (vision - 2021) বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে উপজেলা পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যানদের জন্য

উপজেলা পরিষদ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিষয়ক প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মশালা

উদ্বোধন: ১২ এপ্রিল সোমবার ২০১০, সকাল দশটায় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়ের আইসিসি ভবন

প্রধান অতিথি  
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: উপজেলা চেয়ারম্যানগণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রবেশ-কার্ড/আমন্ত্রণপত্র সঙ্গে রাখবেন।

আহবানে: একসেস টু ইনফরমেশন প্রকল্প ও লোকাল গভর্নেন্স ক্লাস্টার  
ইউএনডিপি-বাংলাদেশ

## RMG UNIT IN N'GANJ 1 killed in clash over pay hike

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj**

A clash between agitating garment factory workers and criminals left one dead and at least 10 injured in Kanchpur of Narayanganj early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Zia, 25, a resident of Kanchpur.

Sources said around 2,000 disgruntled workers of Opex and Sinha Group started demonstrations inside the factory around 7:30am demanding increased pay, attendance allowance, overtime allowance, leave allowance and wage increments.

They said scrap-garment trader Shamsul Haq and his son Zia, along with a gang of criminals attacked the workers around 8:30am that led to the clash.

Zia, who was critically injured during the clash, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at 12:30pm.

The workers also beat up Shamsul, alleged thug of the factory owner, and threw him into a pond. The police later rescued him.

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