



PHOTO: STAR
Singer Naznin Sultana renders a song at a function marking the 149th birth anniversary of Rabin Dr. Naznin Sultana at Shawkat Osman Auditorium at the Public Library in the city yesterday. Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Sangstha organised the event.

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

Affected people to get up to Tk 7 lakh for each acre of land

Disbursement starts next month

BSS, Dhaka

A high-powered government body has fixed the price of each acre of agriculture land at Tk 4 lakh and the price of each acre of commercial land at Tk 7 lakh for the affected people in Barapukuria coal mine areas.

"The Barapukuria Coal Mine Authority will start the disbursement of the compensation package next month," a top official at the energy ministry told BSS yesterday.

According to the energy ministry sources to extract one million tonnes of coal per year from this coal mine through open pit mining, it needs to acquire 300 acre of land at Barapukuria immediately.

The energy ministry on Thursday sent the file to the Prime Minister's Office for approval. However, it asked for Tk 194 crore for land acquisition.

The government set to start the process to extract coal through open pit mining from Barapukuria North from next year.

To materialise the idea the government has started negotiation with 1300 affected families of Barapukuria from December last to acquire 646 acres of lands in seven villages in Dinajpur in four phases between 2010 and 2013.

The energy ministry official said the resettlement package was an outcome of yearlong continuous meetings between the affected people of Barapukuria, the mine authority and local and central leaders.

"We hoped we could start our job very smoothly," he added.

Earlier, the inter-ministerial committee comprising land, communication, law and energy ministries

decided that the affected people will get compensation as per country's land acquisition law.

The meeting also decided to promulgate an ordinance to implement the idea to establish a coal mine city in the country's northern zone in future.

"The mine authority has signed a MoU (memorandum of understanding) with the affected families of Barapukuria in May 2009 while they fixed per acre of land price at Tk 35 lakh," energy ministry sources said.

According to sources at the energy ministry, the government would compensate Tk 260.76 crore under the first phase in the current fiscal, Tk 41.21 crore in 2010-11, Tk 13.13 crore in 2011-12 and Tk 9.12 crore in 2012-13 to extract one million tonnes of coal per year from the mine.



PHOTO: STAR
TV Camera Journalists' Association forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the closure of Channel 1, a private TV station.

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IEB marks founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) yesterday celebrated its 62nd founding anniversary with a vow to work for the development of the country.

Engineers of the country observe the day as 'Engineers Day'. At the beginning of the day's proceedings, they brought out a colorful procession from the IEB Bhaban and ended at the same place after parading different road in the area.

Later, the engineers took oath at the IEB compound to engage themselves in work with dedication to make Bangladesh a developed country.

IEB President Dr SM Nazrul Islam administered the oath.

Nazrul Islam in his speech said the engineers' community should work together to build up a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

IEB General Secretary Mesbahur Rahman Tutul and its Dhaka centre Chairman Md Nurul Huda also spoke.

Later, at a press conference as part of the day's programme, Tutul said the engineers of the country have been working for the development of the country.

The IEB general secretary said they had told the government that it should formulate a coal policy and set up nuclear power plants to resolve the power crisis.

Young woman found dead

UNB, Mymensingh

A young woman was found dead at a paddy field at Char Ishwardia Namapara in Mymensingh yesterday morning.

On receiving information, the police recovered the body of unidentified woman.

The police said miscreants might have strangled the victim after rape on Thursday night and dumped the body on the paddy field.

IEB Vice-presidents Md Rezaul Karim and Khan Manzur Morshed, Assistant General Secretary Md Shahadat Hossain Shiblu, Aminur Rashid Chowdhury and M Sirajul Islam Chowdhury were also present at the press conference.

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