

Coalmine cave-in kills 1

Barapukuria miners remain trapped 2,000 feet below all day before rescue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

At least one person was killed and 19 were wounded when a roof of Barapukuria underground coal mine collapsed on miners nearly 2,000 feet below ground yesterday morning.

The country's first such accident saw a day-long rescue operation comprising around 200 staff of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL), and Chinese mining consortium CMC-XMC in Parbatipur upazila of Dinaipur.

Around 7:45pm the last trapped person, a Chinese miner named Swing, was rescued.

BCMCL identified the deceased as Ranjit Shaha, 43, son of Panchanan Shaha of village Kamarpara, adjacent to the mine. His body was yet to be handed over to his family yesterday, due to unfinished

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Rescuers take a coalminer to hospital after a tunnel roof collapse trapped miners in the Barapukuria coalmine yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

Brown resigns as UK prime minister

BBC ONLINE

Gordon Brown has officially tendered his resignation to the Queen at Buckingham Palace, and recommended Conservative leader David Cameron succeed him.

Speaking outside No 10 Downing Street early today, he said the job had been "a privilege" and wished his successor well.

His decision comes as the Tories and Liberal Democrats are poised to agree a deal to form a government.

Brown said he had taken the decision to resign after concluding he would not be able to form a government after days of talks between the

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ILLEGAL INTERNET TELEPHONY

BTRC to scrap licenses of 5 PSTN operators

MD HASAN

Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has decided to cancel licenses of five landline operators, whose services it switched off in March for their involvement in illegal international call termination through VoIP technology.

The operators are RanksTel, Dhaka Phone, National Telecom, Peoples Tel, and WorldTel. The decision was taken at a BTRC meeting yesterday.

These telephone companies were serving around six lakh clients, with RanksTel alone serving a half of them.

"We have decided to cancel the licenses of five private landline operators who were charged with involvement in illegal VoIP business," said a top official of the commission who attended the meeting.

"The decision has been taken following a

court order," the official said on condition of anonymity, adding that he is not the right person to make the decision public.

BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed declined to comment on the matter.

Earlier in the day, in response to writ petitions filed by RanksTel and National Telecom Ltd, the High Court directed BTRC to decide within seven days whether it would cancel the licenses of the two operators.

The court also ordered BTRC to appoint an administrator to each of the two companies for running their operations in the interest of their subscribers, if the commission cancels their licenses.

The court also said the administrators will be appointed for six months or till disposal of the pending criminal cases filed against the companies. The cases are pending with a magistrate court in Dhaka.

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Jet fuel crunch looms over airlines

Waterways strike cuts supply line to Dhaka; airliners asked to avoid refueling in Dhaka

REAZ AHMAD

Amid a jet fuel crisis due to river transport strike, the civil aviation authority has asked pilots not to fuel aircraft at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport till Friday noon.

The notice, which took effect yesterday, came after Padma Oil, the lone supplier of aviation fuel, warned that its stock in Dhaka has almost dried up as tankers could not bring fuel from Chittagong for strike in last four days.

Meantime, airlines fear they might have to cancel flights scheduled over the next few days for fuel crunch.

Shafique Alam Mehdi, secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry, last night confirmed issuance of the notice to airmen (NOTAM) by the aviation authority.

"We're in communication with Padma Oil and have written to the shipping and energy secretaries, asking for measures to restore fuel

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Sue Mainul for murder

Asks JS body for Rangs Bhaban deaths

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday asked Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha to file a murder case against former adviser to caretaker government Mainul Hosen for "neglect and ignoring safety measures" in demolishing Rangs Bhaban that led to death of 14 workers.

The parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry also asked Rajuk to demolish "illegally built" three upper floors of 15-storey Musafir



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Ctg polls June 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election will be held on June 17, the Election Commission (EC) announced yesterday.

Unveiling the poll schedule at a press conference, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said the EC would do its best to hold a free and fair election by enforcing electoral laws strictly.

According to the schedule, applications seeking candidacies in the polls can be filed from now, and the last is May 20. Scrutiny of the applications will be held on May 22 and 23, and the last date for withdrawal of applications is June 1.

A total of 16.94 lakh voters have been listed for the polls to elect a mayor and 41 councillors

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CTG CITY POLLS

Magistrates to try poll offences from

June 3

Silent observers in

June 17 polls

2 BDR companies to be deployed

June 9

6 army companies to be deployed

June 14

Last day for nomination filling May 20

Last date for nomination withdrawal June 1

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