

WORK FOR MINERS' SAFETY STARTS IN BARAPUKURIA

Commercial production to resume soon

BSS, Dhaka
 Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd has started safety maintaining work in the mine to resume its commercial production soon as per the recommendations of two British and Chinese experts.
 "The experts suggested that we have to start safety maintaining work at Barapukuria to stop further accident, a Petrobangla official said adding, "We have started the job and monitoring every moment's situation."
 Barapukuria suspended its operation from May 11 due to a roof collapse at the coal mine that left one dead and 19 others injured.
 "Hopefully we would be able to resume our operation from August 15 and reinstate our labour from tomorrow," said the official.
 Following the incident, the government engaged the British and Chinese experts to opinion on the coal mine to find out the ways and means to resume its operation through ensuring safety of the miners.
 The authorities stopped commercial production as the experts opined that the disaster is a pre-warning of a large-scale incident in the mine.
 They apprehended that a large-scale disaster in the mine might occur in future if any effective measure is not taken immediately. Coal extraction from the mine has been suspended causing a loss of Tk 2.75 crore a day, the sources said.
 The amount of coal stock is 47 thousand metric tonnes. The experts are very critical of resuming the operation. They suggested observing the situation to start drilling and blasting above the coal seam. A top official at the energy ministry said they are taking appropriate measures as per the experts' recommendations.
 The authorities are now injecting water into the hard rock areas above the coal seam very slowly, he added. "The experts alleged that the authorities used low quality timbers instead of steel support in the vacated phases," he added.
 According to the experts' view the three mine-out phases, which have no steel support are creating pressure upon the coal roof of 1108 phase making it highly vulnerable to sudden collapse (weight bump).
 According to the Barapukuria coal mine company, the accident occurred at 1108 phase below 1,250 feet from the surface because it was too vulnerable to sudden collapse as this phase was surrounded by three vacated phases (1106, 1104 and 1110 phases) after coal extraction.
 The 1110 phase has been sealed off since 2005 gas leakage accident after a partial coal extraction.



Dhaka University Alumni Association President Syed Manjur E Elahi hands over a crest to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dilruba Parvin, 38, a senior staff nurse of National Institute of Mental Health Hospital, needs bone marrow transplantation as she has marrow suffering from acute myeloblastic leukaemia, a form of cancer, said her physicians.
 She has been undergoing treatment under Dr ABM Yunus at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.
 According to doctors, Dilruba needs to undergo bone marrow transplantation abroad, which involves a huge amount of money. But it is not possible for her to afford such an expensive treatment.
 They said the transplantation is yet to be done, as the treatment is not available in the country.
 She has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life.
 Contributions can be sent to her bank account: Dilruba Parvin, savings account no. 20181088, Sonali Bank, Mirpur-1 branch in the city.

Road crashes kill 6, injure 50

METRO DESK

At least six people were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Madaripur, Brahmanbaria and Comilla yesterday.
 A correspondent from Madaripur reports: Three people were killed and 30 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Barisal highway near Takerhat Palli Bidyut office under Rajoi upazila here yesterday.
 The deceased were identified as Shah Alam, 40, and Sohan, 6, while the identity of another could not be known immediately.
 Officer-in-Charge of Rajoi police station Mashur Rahman said the accident occurred at around 2:30pm when the driver of a Dhaka-bound passenger bus lost its control over the steering. The bus fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a tree beside the road near the local Takerhat Palli Bidyut office, leaving two people dead on the spot. The unidentified person died on the way to Faridpur.
 Of the injured, District Session Judge Habibur Rahman, Dr Piyush, Rabeya Akhtar, Abbas, Yakub and Aysha were identified. Abbas and Yakub have been rushed to the Faridpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.
 Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria says: Two people were killed and 20 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Bayshamura village of Sarail upazila at 9:30am yesterday.
 Of the dead, the bus driver Md Aslam Mia, 40, son of late Gulzar Hossain of Jatrabari of Dhaka, was identified while the identity of the other aged around 45 years could not be ascertained.
 According to witnesses, the accident occurred when a speeding truck hit a Sylhet-bound speeding bus of Hanif Paribhan while crossing the Bayshamura turning point.
 Aslam died on the spot while 21 passengers were injured. Of the injured, one succumbed to his injuries on the way to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.
 Of the injured, eight have been sent to Sarail Upazila Health Complex, two to Ashuganj Hospital and the rest to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.
 Condition of Khalil, 25, of Bahubal in Habiganj district and Amirul Islam, 40, of Dhaka, was very critical, doctors at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital said.
 A correspondent from Comilla adds: A boy was crushed to death by a speeding tractor while he was crossing the Comilla-Kotbari road in Gobindapur area in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.
 The deceased was identified as Md Ismail Hossain, 16, of Madhavpur village of Muradnagar upazila.
 Local people put up barricade on the road for one hour in protest against the killing. Later, police brought the situation under control.
 The body was sent to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

PM unhappy over power cuts during Iftar, Sehri

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed annoyance over load shedding at the time of Sehri on first Ramadan at some places in the country. She strictly ordered the power secretary to ensure uninterrupted power supply at times of Iftar and Sehri throughout the country.
 After Iftar yesterday evening, an irate prime minister questioned her Advisor Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad over phone as to why the electricity supply was not available.
 "You must ensure there won't be any power outage at the time of Iftar and Sehri under any circumstances," she was quoted by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.
 Azad said the prime minister came to know that there was interruption in power supply during Sehri yesterday morning.
 Hasina had clearly directed, in the last meeting with officials of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, not to disrupt power during Sehri and Iftar and was wondering why her directive was not followed.
 She said people are well aware of the power situation since there was no production of electricity in the last seven years before she assumed office.
 The prime minister asked the advisor and secretary to ensure smooth supply of power during Iftar and Sehri, and also inquired whether vested groups are engaged in any sabotage.
 "Identify the saboteurs...stern action will be taken against them," she said.

BYLC - STAR CAMPUS ROUNDTABLE

Take part in social services

Speakers urge youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday urged the youth to take part in social services and political process for a brighter future of Bangladesh.
 The discussion titled "New directions for youth leadership development" was organised by The Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) with Star Campus at The Daily Star office in the city marking International Youth Day.
 The purpose of the event was to explore ways through which young people can lead social change by playing an active role in the community.
 Issues on public leadership and role of youth in participating in political process, existing problems in the multi-tiered educational system, and opportunities for youth led community development were discussed.
 Shahnoor Wahid, editor of Star Campus, said, "It is important to nurture grassroots leadership to promote social development. Real leadership comes from serving your community and the best way to develop leadership skills is by getting involved in community service initiatives."
 Ejaj Ahmad, president of BYLC, said, "Leadership is not only about position or authority rather is an activity that helps improve the human condition with compassion at heart."
 "Organisations like JAAGO Foundation, Community Action, and One Degree Initiative, are all doing impressive work to develop a more compassionate young generation. A bright future awaits Bangladesh if such community initiatives are taken by the young generation," said Ejaj.
 Shahnoor Wahid moderated the session.
 The roundtable was also attended by Korvi Rakshand, founder chairman of JAAGO Foundation, Nabila Idris, founder president of Community Action, Zubair Idris, founding member of Community Action and One Degree Initiative, and Sabhanaz Rashid Diya, cofounder and advisor of One Degree Initiative.
 Several BYLC graduates and members from the Star Campus team and representatives from other youth organisations also actively participated in the meeting.

Highlight positive contributions of youths to society

Speakers tell media
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Youngsters should be given more recognition for their positive contributions to the society rather than the media focusing on their negative traits, said speakers at a seminar, commemorating the International Youth Day, yesterday.
 Despite being unemployed, many youngsters are carrying out activities that deserve recognition and appreciation by all, they said.
 The seminar was organised by Department of Youth Development (DYD) in association with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) at Jubo Bhaban in the city.
 "It is highly de-motivating when the media throws light on the destructive activities of youth rather than highlighting their positive attributes," said Rowshan Ara Feroz, a teacher of Dhaka University (DU).
 The speakers noted that, it is always the youth who step in during times of dire crises, ranging from natural disasters, road accidents or donating blood to patients in critical conditions to doing social work in the neighbourhood.
 Quoting a study conducted by the British Council, she said over 90 percent of the country's youngsters are interested in development-based activities.
 "However, most of them could not name a single youth-based organisation from their localities, which shows the lack of promotion of such organisations" she said.
 The speakers emphasised on the need for holding more dialogue with the young, in alignment with "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", the slogan for this year's International Youth Day.
 A teacher of Sociology at DU, Prof Nasreen blamed lack of communication between the young workers and their employers for the recent violence in the garments sector.
 "As far as youngsters are concerned, lack of communication exists in every corner of our society, which is the prime reason behind the frustrations of today's youth," she said.
 "Nowadays talented students are least interested in actively participating in politics in contrast to the times when usually the academics embraced politics in a bid to contribute to the nation," noted Shyamal Dutta, editor Bhorer Kagaj.
 They also stressed on the need to take more initiatives to develop the younger generation and to provide them with employment.
 Chairing the occasion, Md Azizur Rahman, director general of Department of Youth Development (DYD) remarked on the need to facilitate the movement of youth across national borders through bilateral negotiations.
 State Minister for Youth and Sports, Ahmad Ali Sarkar was present as the chief guest.
 Director of Implementation, DYD, Khandaker Matiar Rahman, Country Director of VSO, Shahana Hayat and Secretary General of National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh Dulal Biswas, among others, spoke.
 International Youth Day, an event observed throughout the world to celebrate youth and to recognise their contributions in enhancing peace and development was celebrated at United Nations headquarters in New York yesterday.

5 Myanmarese held with Bangladeshi passports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Detective police arrested seven persons including five Myanmarese nationals with Bangladeshi passports from Ashkona of the capital Wednesday night.
 The Myanmarese nationals -- Mohammad Kaies, 27, Jahed Alam, 22, Rashidullah, 20, Amin, 22, Ershad, 25 -- and their Bangladeshi aides Hossain Mobarak and Adamzi, 23 admitted that they collected Bangladeshi passports producing false documents, police said.
 Assistant Commissioner (AC) Kazi Moniruzzaman of DB said the arrests were made in a raid on Hotel Shuvo International (Residential) in the area.
 Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Molla Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star that Rahat Travels Centre at Agrabad in Chittagong is involved in sending Myanmarese nationals abroad from Bangladesh. We are trying to arrest the agency owner, he added.
 The men entered Bangladesh from Arakan of Myanmar, said the ADC adding, the travel agency usually send Myanmarese nationals to the Middle Eastern countries.
 Myanmarese nationals using Bangladeshi passports are getting involved in crimes abroad, which besmirch the image of Bangladesh, he said.
 Hossain Mobarak and Adamzi, brokers for Rahat Travels Centre, told The Daily Star that they gather Rohingya youths and manage Bangladeshi passports for them.
 The police officials said they are conducting drives at different parts in the country to find out the crime network.

CONTEMPT OF COURT AGAINST MAHMUDUR

Next hearing on August 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned the hearing till August 16 on a contempt of court petition against detained Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar, and four journalists of the daily.
 A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim gave the order after the jail authorities again produced detained Mahmudur Rahman before the SC yesterday as per its earlier directive.
 The four journalists -- publisher of the newspaper Hashmat Ali, deputy editor Syed Abdul Ahmed, news editor Mujtahid Faruqui and staff reporter Aliullah Noman also appeared before it yesterday in connection with the petition.
 The court also asked the authorities to further produce Mahmudur before it during the next hearing on August 16.
 The four journalists of the Amar Desk also have to appear before the court during the next hearing, although they yesterday submitted a petition to it offering unconditional apology for publishing the news item.
 But Mahmudur on July 8 told the court through his lawyers he will contest the contempt of court petition filed against him.
 Lawyers Mynul Hassan Uddin Khan and Mynul Hassan jointly filed the petition on May 2 for publishing a report in his daily with the headline "Chamber manei sarkar pakkhe stay" meaning "Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government" on April 21.
 Earlier on July 8, Mahmudur was produced before this court in the same connection.
 During yesterday's hearing petitioners' lawyer Additional Attorney General MK Rahman read out the news item before the court.
 Barrister Rafiqul Huq, barrister Moudud Ahmed and barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the journalists.

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all seven divisions across the country in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.
 Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.
 Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.
 The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:33am tomorrow.
 Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Mymensingh.
 Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	26.5	88	73
Chittagong	32.0	25.4	87	82
Rajshahi	32.6	27.2	87	97
Khulna	34.8	27.4	84	89
Barisal	31.5	27.0	92	88
Sylhet	33.0	25.6	88	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.3	81	78

Tk 1.57 crore foreign currency seized in airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man with foreign currencies worth Tk 1.57 crore was detained at Shahjalal International Airport on Wednesday night.
 Mohammad Sunny, bound for Singapore, was carrying seven types of currencies, including euro, pound and Singaporean dollar.
 Superintendent of Customs Intelligence Shamsul Islam Khan of the airport said a suspicious looking object was detected while Sunny's luggage was being checked through a scanner.
 The luggage was manually searched and the currencies recovered, he added.
 Sunny, who had been living in Singapore for 18 years, told custom personnel that he was carrying the currencies to Singapore for business purposes.
 Officer-in-charge (OC) Shamsuddin Salay Ahmed of Airport Police Station said the airport authorities handed over Sunny to them.
 He said they are investigating the incident whether other people are involved in laundering money in this connection.
Death anniversary
METRO DESK
 Today is the eighth death anniversary of Major General Dr Anis Waiz, former principal of Bangladesh Medical College, says a press release.
 On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the orphans at the Banani graveyard.

UK foreign secy greets Muslims

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UK's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs William Hague has greeted Muslims across the globe on the occasion of the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan.
 In a message, William Hague said: "Assalaamo-Alaikum. As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan begins I want to send as British Foreign Secretary good wishes to Muslims across the globe."
 "This is a very important time in the calendar. It's a time of fasting, of prayer, of introspection, of the gathering of families and I'm very conscious as a British politician of the huge contribution that so many Muslims in Britain make across the whole breadth of our society and that is something of course that we want to see even more of in the future," said William Hague.
 He said it's a very, very important time of year celebrating what Ramadan is about, important values of selflessness, of charity, of compassion, of looking after people less fortunate than ourselves.
 "And these are values of course that unite Muslims and non-Muslims alike," he said adding, "So at this special time of year I say to you, your friends and your relatives, Ramadan Mubarak."

TODAY

Award giving ceremony
 Bodher Kagoj Muslim will organise an award giving ceremony. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
 Save the Environment Movement and Bangladesh Scouts will form a human chain. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Time: 10:30am.

Debate competition
 Bangladesh Indigenous Debate Federation will organise a debate competition. Venue: Arts auditorium, Dhaka University, Time: 2:45pm.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Justice Abdul Matin Khan Chowdhury will be held at his residence at House No # 32, Road No # 5 at Dhanmondi in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.
 Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.
 Justice Matin passed away due to old age complications on Wednesday at the age of 83. He left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.