

Barapukuria resumes coal production today

95-day work suspension costs Tk 257cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Coal production at Barapukuria in Parbatipur upazila of Dinaipur is going to restart today after a suspension of 95 days following an underground accident on May 11 this year.

The production of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) was suspended as a part of the mine roof of 1108 Phase caved in when a group of miners were working in 1240ft depth underground.

The accident killed miner Ranjit Saha and wounded more 19 people including two Chinese miners of contracted company CMC-XMC consortium.

The 95-day long suspension caused Tk 257 crore loss to the state run company, sources said.

"The mine is now ready for coal production and hopefully it will start from 6.00am Sunday from 1108 coal phase," said BCMCL Managing Director Md Engineer Quamruzzaman.

CMC-XMC Consortium with participation of 850 Bangladeshi miners conducted trial production on Friday and Saturday morning to restart the coal production, he added.

Last year, they developed 1108 Phase with 2,47,876.2 tonnes of coal reserved.

Of it, 1,28,512.4 tonnes of coal was extracted from February to May 10 this year while about 1,19,347 tonnes of coal remained trapped inside the phase due to May 11 accident, sources said.

Restarting coal production after the accident was delayed as the BCMCL authority was in indecision to choose from safety measures suggested by foreign consultancy groups, sources said.

On May 20, a five-member Chinese team came to Bangladesh to examine the accident site. The Chinese experts suggested BCMCL authority for some safety measures including the roadway protection at the accident site of 1108 Phase.

International Mining Consultants Group Consulting Ltd (IMCGCL), a consultant of company of BCMCL, hired two consultants from Germany and they visited the accident site on June 20.

After thorough examinations, the experts of consultancy firms detected the stresses (weight bump) on upper part of the roof around the 1108 Phase in 1240ft depth. But the experts suggested two methods to de-stress the weight bump -- explosion method and hydro pressure remover method.

After holding several high level meetings, the Chinese experts opted for explosion method to de-stress the weight bump despite difference of opinion of IMCGCL consultancy groups due to excessive methane gas formation at the accident site, sources said.

To de-stress the weight bump, Chinese experts successfully exploded dynamites on August 4 and again on Thursday last.

A total of 37 dynamites were exploded for the purpose, BCMCL sources said.

The mine which has witnessed several spells of agitation by surrounding villagers and Bangladeshi miners since early this year had extracted 3500 tonnes of coal on an average daily until the May 11 accident, mine sources said.

After the accident, the Bangladesh miners received 80 per cent of their wages although the contracted company appointed them under 'no work no pay' agreement.



Two girls wade through knee-deep water on a road as tidal surge submerges most areas of Patuakhali town yesterday. This photo was taken from Shimulbagh area

Tidal water floods Patuakhali town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali town and the low-lying areas in the district have been flooded due to tidal surge and heavy rain for the last three days since Thursday.

Tidal water entered the district town from adjacent Lohalia and Lawkathi rivers, inundating Pura Bazar, Chaw Bazar, Katpatti, College Road, Charpara, Natun Bazar, Jubilee School Road, Muslim Para, Munsefpara, Sabujbagh and Shimulbagh areas.

The government is constructing an embankment to prevent tidal water from entering the town during high tide in the sea. The construction of the embankment is yet to be completed.

Besides, the low-areas and chars (newly emerged landmass) in different upazilas of the district have gone under water due to tidal surge and torrential rain. Local met office recorded 75 MM rainfall in the district in six hours from 9:00am to 3:00 pm yesterday.

Over 30 chars in Galachipa, 10 chars in Dasmina, five chars in Kalapara, and four chars in Baufal upazilas have gone under 3 to 5 feet water due to tidal surge, marooning at least two lakh people.

Heavy rain and tidal surge paralysed the normal life of the townspeople and damaged the newly planted aman seedlings in the low-lying areas of the district. The flow of tourists has lessened on the Kuakata sea beach due to inclement weather. This correspondent saw a small number of tourists on the sea beach during his visit to the area yesterday.

Hafizur Rahman, manager of Parjatan Motel told the correspondent that no new tourist arrived here in the last three days due to heavy rain.

Criminals kill drivers, take away auto-rickshaws

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police said criminals boarded Rabiul's auto-rickshaw in the guise of passengers at about 12:30am from Kaddar Moar intersection, near an approach road of Jamuna bridge to go to Enyetpur.

They attacked and killed Rabiul when he reached Battala and took away the auto-rickshaw dumping the body in jute field, said officer-in-charge Mostafizur Rahman of Belkuchi police station.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj Sadar General Hospital for autopsy.

In Cox's Bazar district, criminals took away a CNG-run auto-rickshaw after killing its driver on Marine Drive road near Teknaf sea beach on Friday night, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Jebar Mulluk, 26, son of Abdul Majed of Harinmara village in Ukhia upazila.

Police said, a gang in the guise of passengers, hired the auto-rickshaw to go to Teknaf from Ukhia upazila and when the vehicle reached the sea beach area the criminals stabbed Jebar Mulluk to death and hijacked his vehicle.

Local people at about 10pm found the body in a pool of blood on the road and informed the police. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

'Take unruly BCL cadres to task for destroying RU atmosphere'

Left leaning student bodies term recent steps as eye wash

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of left-leaning student organisations of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday staged demonstration demanding punishment to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) cadres for what they said destroying the congenial atmosphere on campus.

At a view exchange meeting with the journalists at about 2pm at RU, they also called upon the university authorities to take legal action against the BCL cadres as they were involved in frequent clashes, extortions and other crimes on the campus.


Criticising the role of the university authorities, RU unit Chhatra Union president Rafi Ahmed Chanchal said the authorities have miserably failed to take proper steps against the leaders and activists of BCL who have been involved in armed factional clashes at different halls.

Al-Mahmud Mitul, president of RU unit Chhatra Front alleged that the university authorities and law enforcers played the role of silent spectators during the campus violence between BCL and Jubo League on August 7 and BCL infighting on August 8 when BCL cadres flexed muscle with huge fire-arms and sharp weapons.

Terming the authorities' drives as eye wash, the leaders said that's why raids on two male dormitories on August 8 failed to recover any arms or arrest anybody.

They also criticised the authorities as they are yet to take any step against the alleged student of economics department who allegedly sexually harassed a female student of the same department a few months ago.

Leaders and activists of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Chhatra Union, JSD Chhatra League and Chhatra Federation, Chhatra Moitree attended the programme.



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(জাতীয় পর্যটন সংস্থা)

GD - 3460

3 more commit suicide in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Three people including a housewife have allegedly committed suicide at three separate places under Manikchhari upazila in the districts in a day.


They are Kulsum Begum, 21, wife of Abdul Hannan of Tintahori Guchhagram (cluster village), Depok Shil, 25, son of late Nirmol Shil of Muslimpara village and Md. Monir Hossain, 28, son of Abdul Mazid of Boroitali village under the upazila.

Earlier on August 9 and 10 three more people allegedly committed suicide in two other upazilas of the district.

Manikchhari police said, housewife Kulsum Begum committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of the house of her in-laws on Friday while Dipok Shil and Monir Hossain committed suicides by taking poison following family feuds the same day.

Officer in-charge of Manikchhari police station Mohammad Abul Kashem confirming the three unnatural deaths said they sent the bodies yesterday morning to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Earlier, housewife Rabeya Aktar, 18, daughter of Mohammad Abul Kashem of pilot farm area and Selina Aktar, 13, daughter of Abul Hossen of Mollapara under Panchhari upazila killed themselves on August 10.



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