

Coalmine needs new pay scale to attract experts

Barapukuria officials suggest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of Barapukuria Coal Mine Officers Welfare Association have urged the government to introduce a new pay structure for the company to attract experienced experts.

Coal production has become a challenging profession globally to meet increasing power demand, said speakers at a discussion on the occasion of 'Installation Ceremony 2010' of the elected members of the association, a platform of the employees of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL).

The government has taken up a plan to produce about 10,000 MW power from coal-based plants by 2030 and it is the only reliable source to

meet the national power demand, engineer Md Quamruzzaman, managing director BCMCL, said in his speech as chief guest at the discussion on BCMCL playground on Friday night.

Underground coal mine is much riskier due to hydrological and geological pressure underground, speakers said at the discussion.

Emphasising extraction of the highest amount of coal, they said coal is emerging alternative resources for the power sector around the globe as oil and gas are diminishing quickly.

Referring to the mine accident in Chile and its government's laudable role that made it possible to rescue 33 trapped miners alive after 73 days, the speakers urged the government to take proper initiatives to face such situa-

tion for the miners and engineers of BCMCL.

Khan Mohammad Zafar Sadik, general secretary of the organisation, urged the government to provide residential and dormitory facilities for the mine experts residing in the mine area.

He also urged providing extra facilities including profit bonus, 10 per cent shifting allowance and night shift allowance considering their stay in remote area.

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The government has taken a plan to produce about 10,000

megawatt power from coal-based power plant within 2030 and so, coal sector is the only reliable source to meet the national power demand, engineer Md Quamruzzaman, managing director Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd, said.

"From next year BCMCL is going for coal production from 'second slice' which is much risky. Discussion with two international organisations is being held to arrange training of officers," he added.

Biswanath Halder, chief engineer of Barapukuria 250MW Power Plant, spoke as special guest at the meeting presided over by engineer Habib Uddin Ahmed, president of the organisation, and deputy general manager (Underground Operation).



Indigenous artistes dance at a function organised by manpower and employment directorate at Baramaidan in Dinajpur town marking International Migrants' Day yesterday. Similar programmes were held in several other districts across the country as part of campaign to motivate people about safe migration and ensuring rights of immigrants.

PHOTO: STAR

Whipped Tanore housewife succumbs to injuries

STAR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A housewife, who fell victim to fatwa (religious edict) and was whipped 40 times at Kochua village in Tanore upazila a month ago over allegation of an illicit affair with her stepson, died on December 14.

Taimur Rahman, brother of the victim, Sufia Begum, 45, lodged a complaint with Tanore Police Station, alleging that she succumbed to her injuries.

He accused seven people, including the village leader Nawsher Ali Mollah and Kochua mosque Imam Afsar Ali, of killing his sister.

The complainant stated

that Sufia was the second wife of Omar Ali Pramanik, a beggar at Kochua village.

At an arbitration on November 12, the village leaders brought allegations of illicit relations between Sufia and her stepson Abdul Hannan, 36, and awarded 40 lashes to each of them, the complainant, he said.

The complainant further said that Sufia fell sick following the incident and was under treatment of a village doctor. As her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where she died on December 14, he added.

"We will record the com-

plaint after primary investigation," said Azizul Haque Sarker, officer-in-charge of Tanore Police Station.

Imam Afsar Ali and Nawsher Ali Mollah admitted to awarding Sufia with 40 lashes following an advice of madrasa teacher Ruhul Amin.

"I have no knowledge of giving a fatwa. So, I requested Ruhul Amin and he advised to give 40 lashes to both Sufia and Hannan."

Contacted, Ruhul Amin, a teacher of Malopara Madrasa, said he did not give any such advice to anyone. "A fatwa must be issued in writing. I did not issue any such fatwa."

RU students agitate

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Nawab Abdul Latif Hall at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday besieged the residence of the provost and demanded his removal.

Several hundred students earlier staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the hall gate.

Later at a rally, they demanded cancellation of newly increased meal charge, supply of safe drinking water, better behaviour with students by the provost, keeping hall library open regularly, mike at hall mosque, more newspapers, regular cleaning of bathroom-toilets, inter hall game and sufficient lighting system at hall gymnasium.

The students claimed that the hall provost did not discuss with the students before raising the meal charge.

Five kidnapped in Rangamati BSF kills one in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Five villagers were kidnapped allegedly by the activists of Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) in two upazilas of the district on Thursday and Friday.

On Friday night, armed men belonging to pro-peace treaty PCJSS came to Daner Jurachhari village adjacent to Lulochhari under Jurachhari upazila and abducted three villagers at gunpoint, Jurachhari police quoting locals said.

The kidnapped villagers were identified as Kinachan Chakma, Gyanendu Chakma and Pathar Moni Chakma. The kidnappers took them to the dense forests, sources said.

"I have heard the news of kidnapping two villagers. Army and police are trying to rescue them," Rafiqul Islam,

officer-in-charge (OC) of Jurachhari police station, yesterday said.

Locals told me that armed PCJSS men abducted the villagers, the OC added.

Earlier, on Thursday, another group of pro-peace treaty members came to Chaminichhari village in Machaleng, the frontier areas in Sajek union under Baghaichhari upazila of the district and picked up two villagers at gunpoint, locals said.

The victims were identified as Boidya Chakma alias Sudam, 22, and Mukta Dhan Chakma, 25.

Nayeem Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Baghaichhari police station, said he was not aware about the incident.

PCJSS assistant publicity secretary Sajib Chakma, however, denied his organisation's involvement in the abductions.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) of India at bordering Uttar Gopnati village of Domar upazila on Friday morning.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rashid, 35, son of Abul Hossain of Paschim Chhatnazi village under Dimla upazila.

The incident took place within Bangladesh territory near border pillar no 790, BDR sources said.

BSF personnel belonging to 95 Battalion at Shamil Bose camp in Cooch Bihar district opened fire injuring Rashid at about 5:00 am on Friday.

Locals and BDR person-

nel rescued the victim in a critical condition. But Rashid succumbed to his injury on way to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.

Later a flag meeting was held between BDR and BSF at no man's land on Friday noon.

BDR operational officer of 34 Rifles Battalion, Major Sayed Hasan said they sent a strong written protest to BSF for opening fire on the innocent Bangladeshi national.

Officer-in-charge of Dimla police station Monirul Islam told this correspondent that the victim was buried at his village yesterday afternoon.

BDR intensified patrol after the incident.

Large advertisement for Bangladesh Navy recruitment. Title: বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী. Subtitle: সরাসরি কমিশন্ড অফিসার (সাব লেফটেন্যান্ট) পদে নিয়োগ ২০১১-বি ব্যাচ. Includes a table of requirements for various ranks and a list of 25 subjects for the written exam.