

## Blast traps at least 30 in Colombian coal mine

AFP, Bogota

At least 30 miners were trapped by an explosion in a coal mine in north-eastern Colombia, the mayor of the town of Sardinata said yesterday.

Mayor Yamile Rangel said that there was only a slim chance that the miners survived the accident.

"The information that we have up to now is that at the moment of the explosion 30 people were working in the mine -- they are trapped and we do not believe that they survived," Rangel said.

She said that eight miners had already been pulled out, but she did not know yet if they were dead or alive.

The explosion was apparently caused by an accumulation of methane gas, Rangel said.



A Russian flag flies at half-mast over the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday, during a day of mourning for the victims of a suicide bombing attack. Moscow held a day of mourning on Wednesday for the 35 people killed in a suicide bombing at Russia's largest airport as 116 people remained hospitalised, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

## Russia ratifies US nuke disarmament treaty

AFP, Moscow

Russia's upper house of parliament ratified the new US nuclear disarmament treaty yesterday, the final step in approving the first nuclear pact between the two former Cold War rivals in 20 years.

Senators at the Federation Council voted unanimously to approve the new START treaty, which US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev signed in Prague on April 8, 2010.

The new Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty (START) reduces old warhead ceilings by 30 percent and limits each side to 700 deployed long-range missiles and heavy bombers.

Russia's State Duma lower house of parliament backed the measure in the third and final reading on Tuesday and the US Senate ratified the pact after a months-long debate on December 22.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen hailed the vote as "good news for international security and stability."

His message was backed by Mikhail Margelov, the Federation Council's interna-

tional affairs committee chief who was one of the pact's principal backers in Russia.

"The START agreement verifies the trust between the two sides," he said after the vote.

The original 1991 START agreement expired at the end of 2009 amid differences in readings of what constituted 21st century threats.

Those differences also remained throughout the tortuous negotiating and approval process, with both the Senate and Russia's parliament adopting a series of non-binding amendments that put their own spin on the new pact.

One of the most fundamental disagreements concerns a US decision to pursue a European missile defence shield that Russia had spent years resisting.

Moscow has since modified its stance, saying that it was ready to see the shield go up, but only if it was giving an equal say in how it operates -- and in determining which nations posed a real threat to the West.

The new START will enter into force the moment the two presidents swap their respective "instruments of ratification," which is expected to happen within days.

## AL, BNP accuse each other

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by-polls scheduled for today.

BNP leaders said the AL was trying to influence the election with the help of administration. On the other hand, AL leaders said the BNP candidate is distributing black money among voters.

The Election Commission has made all preparations to hold the elections. All ballot boxes and ballot papers have reached 175 centres in Nabiganj and Bahubal upazilas.

Returning Officer Md Emran told The Daily Star 27 security men will be deployed in each centre. A company of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) will work in the election area as strike force, he said.

He added they have identified 92 centres as important. "We'll not call those vulnerable but those are important centres because of distance and poor communications."

Around 3.01 lakh voters are expected to cast their votes today to elect their representatives in parliament.

BNP in a written complaint to the EC alleged 11 presiding and polling officers are loyal to the AL candidate and might work for him.

Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, chief coordinator and election agent of Shujat Mia, told The Daily Star those 11 election officials

have open or close relations with AL.

Returning Officer Md Emran said five of the 11 officials were not given election duty. The rest six are now under the EC, which would take action if they do not work properly, he added.

AL lawmaker from Habiganj-3 Abu Jahid at a press briefing said BNP candidate Sheikh Sujat normally does not stay in the country. "He comes home during elections and tries to win using huge black money," he alleged.

He said the ruling party is not influencing the election and the EC is not getting any interference from them.

BNP leaders in a separate press conference alleged the central AL leaders including Suranjit Sengupta held secret meetings at the Circuit House with the district administration officials.

BNP organising secretary in charge of Sylhet Division Elias Ali said without deployment of army the election won't be free and fair. He alleged their leaders and activists were arrested in false cases.

On the AL allegations, the BNP candidate said he has businesses in London but he does not stay there for a long time. He is not spending any black money, he added.

## Pak's Sindh province faces acute hunger

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Sindh province, hit hard by last year's floods, is suffering levels of malnutrition almost as critical as Chad and Niger, with hundreds of thousands of children at risk, UNICEF said yesterday.

A survey conducted by the provincial government and the UN Children's Fund revealed malnutrition rates of 23.1 percent in northern Sindh and 21.2 percent in the south.

Those rates are above the 15 percent emergency threshold set by the World Health Organisation and are on a par with some of the poorest parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

A full report will be released on Friday by the Sindh government, she said.

## Tall task at Khaled's hand

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within two months, instead of earlier deadline of three months.

The circular confirmed Bangladesh Krishi Bank Chairman Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled as the head of the committee.

Prof Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, director general of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), and Md Abdul Bari, former president of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), are the other two members.

Earlier in the day, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said they are facing problem in finding out the people who can give the stockmarket the much-needed confidence.

"Initially, whoever we chose are indirectly involved in the market," the finance minister told journalists.

The banking division of the finance ministry sent the names of the probe committee members and the terms of reference to the SEC for issuance of the circular.

The appointments came as the government moved to establish order in the country's two bourses.

The probe body has been entrusted with 11 tasks that include finding out if any individual or group had influenced the market or taken any undue advantages, said a finance ministry official.

Ibrahim Khaled, the head of the

probe committee and former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, has served as managing director of several public and private banks including Sonali and Agrani banks.

According to the terms of reference, the committee will find the causes behind the massive overpricing of shares over the last two years. It will also identify people and institutions that withdrew unusually high amount of money taking advantage of the overpriced market through direct listing, book building and fixed price. The role of issue manager, regulatory body, audit firm and asset valuer and company will also be looked into.

It will investigate how small investors were affected by purchasing shares of the issuer company in the case of initial public offering (IPO).

The committee will review overall liquidity situation and see if the SEC had sufficient efficiency and experience.

The committee will evaluate infrastructure and governance of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE). It will also see if the existing laws and rules to regulate the capital market are appropriate and whether the steps taken by the SEC against the backdrop of the volatile situation were right.

It will investigate whether banks, financial institutions, merchant banks, brokerage houses and listed compa-

nies were involved in activities aimed at disrupting normal operation of the markets and creating instability.

The committee will review the nature of the continuous upward trend in the capital market, come up with solutions to make the stockmarket sustainable, and determine the nature of overpricing.

It will also review comparative earnings from investment in the banks and government savings instruments in early 2010 and earnings from long-term investment in the capital market.

The committee will find out the short-term buyers and sellers in the market, instead of long-term investors, and the nature of their transactions. It will identify this group of people and/or institutions, find out the amount of money they transact, and their way of influencing the market.

In the last two years, the share market saw a huge rise, the main index of DSE alone rising 62 percent in 2009 and 82 percent last year.

This January, the market saw a big turmoil. On one occasion, the main index of DGEN fell 600 points in just five minutes, resulting in the instant stoppage of trading.

Small investors launched a massive agitation. The finance minister held several meetings with stakeholders and the government policymakers before formation of the probe committee.

## NEWS IN brief

### Pirates have seized German cargo ship off Seychelles: EU

AFP, Brussels

Pirates hijacked a German cargo ship north of the Seychelles in an attack over the weekend, the EU's naval mission confirmed yesterday, as the nearest Navfor vessel was too far away to help.

"After four days of uncertainty regarding the exact status of the crew, MV Beluga Nomination is now believed" to have been captured by pirates, the EU Navfor mission said in a statement on the hijacking.

An unknown number of pirates travelling on a skiff and bearing small arms attacked the German-owned and Antiguan and Barbudan flagged, on Saturday in the Indian Ocean, the statement added.

### Indonesia arrests 'smuggler' over immigrant deaths

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesian police yesterday said they had arrested an alleged people smuggler linked to a shipwreck in Australia's remote Christmas Island which killed up to 50 asylum-seekers.

The man, who was only identified by his initials A.H, is believed to be an Australian of Middle-Eastern origin in his 40s, National Police transnational security chief Agung Sabar Santoso told AFP.

"He's a big fish, a cunning smuggler," he said. "From the information shared by the Australian police, we gathered that he had sent boatloads of illegal Afghan and Iranian immigrants to Australia such as Christmas Island and Ashmore."

### Twitter blocked in Egypt amid unrest

AFP, San Francisco

Twitter confirmed late Tuesday that its website was blocked in Egypt, in an apparent move to thwart protesters using the social network in a campaign to oust President Hosni Mubarak.

The US-based microblogging service that allows people to use mobile phones and computers to broadcast short text messages was out of service in Egypt, according to the herdict.org tracking website.

Twitter said in a terse "tweet" that it was blocked in Egypt starting about 1600 GMT and that the interruption had derailed Twitter.com as well as applications linked to the service there.

"We believe that the open exchange of information and views benefits societies and helps governments connect with their people," Twitter representatives said in follow-up message.

## AL groups fight for office

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Some 50 activists of local Olama League led by Adam Ali attacked Jubo League activists at the office with bamboo sticks and iron rods around 10:30pm, said Sub-Inspector Mohammad Siraj of Kadamtali Police Station. Jubo and Sramik League activists led by Babul counter-attacked with sticks and iron rods.

They fought a running battle in front of the office, causing disruption to traffic on Buriganga Bridge-1 and nearby roads for about an hour, police said.

On information, Kadamtali police rushed to the spot, dispersed the activists and locked the Jubo League office.

The road communication returned to normal around 11:30am.

Referring anonymity a police official said the office was being used by local Jubo League and Sramik League, and Olama League men were trying to take control of it.

Police said local AL leaders assured activists of the AL units that they would settle the issue amicably.

## Patients suffer at DMCH

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Some 37 employees have been working in the unit for the last seven years under the project following assurance of their job regularisation.

Many patients who went to the outdoor section of the burn unit had to return without getting any treatment after 11:00am.

In the indoor section, many patients did not get dressings for their wounds due to the work abstention.

Anika, 3, was brought to the unit around 10:30am from Kaliganj of Gazipur district as her right hand got burnt by hot water.

When her parents were waiting for the serial in the unit's emergency department, the staff began the work abstention.

Anika had to wait till 2:00pm to see a doctor. A burn unit official requesting anonymity told The Daily Star that the 50-bed hospital project started with six third class employees, 13 doctors and 10 nurses in December 2003.

At present the unit has 52 doctors of whom 39 have been working on deputation.

Twenty-seven fourth class employees are now working with the unit. They worked for the first two years on a temporary basis with a daily payment of Tk 120.

After two years, their daily payment of Tk 120 was stopped by the ministry of health. Since then the employees have been working without any payment, they said.

At present, around 300 patients have been admitted in the indoor section of the 50-bed unit while on an average 150 patients take treatment from its outdoor every day.

The doctors, nurses and employees of the Burn unit alleged that instead of meeting their demand, the authorities are buying time.

"We are now passing days in abject misery", they said. Dr Samanta Lal Sen, project director of the Burn unit, told this correspondent that many fourth class employees have been working in the unit without any money for long with the hope of regularisation of their jobs.

"We hope that the authorities' assurance of their job regularisation and bringing them under the revenue budget will materialise soon," he said.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**North South University (NSU) Foundation**, the Founder of NSU is seeking qualified and experienced persons for the following positions:

### Joint Secretary

**Education:** Masters Degree in Accounting/Business Administration/English/Law/Finance/ Management/ Public Administration. MBA from any reputable University preferably from NSU/IBA will be preferred.

**Experience:** Minimum 12 year's experience as Deputy/Joint Secretary in any large and reputable university or any Public/Private Ltd. Co. or similar other organizations.

**Other requisites:** Knowledge in company matters and capability in dealing with the Board affairs, which will include but not limited to taking notes and drafting minutes of various meetings. Competence and knowledge in drafting letters and memos; preparing statements, reports, speeches and messages are important. Thorough knowledge in and familiarity with various relevant Laws and Acts, including the Society Registration Act, the Private University Act, the Trust Act are essential. Ability and efficiency in communicating and maintaining liaison with various internal and external offices is required. Efficient office management, good command over both English and Bengali and operational ability of PCs are very important. Bengali typing skill will be treated as an added advantage.

**Age:** Not more than 45 years      **Pay Scale:** TK. 40,000-4,000-1,00,000

### Officer

**Education:** Masters Degree in Accounting/Business Administration/English/Law/Finance/ Management/Public Administration.

**Experience:** Minimum 8 year's experience in administrative job in any large and reputable academic institution and/or other organization.

**Other requisites:** Ability and experience in taking notes and dictations; drafting letters and memos; preparing statements, reports, speeches and messages; maintaining files, records and documents; etc are essential. Good command in both English and Bengali is necessary. Well conversant in application and operation of PCs with basic knowledge and excellent typing skill in Bengali and English are compulsory.

**Age:** Not more than 40 years      **Pay Scale:** TK. 12,500-1,250-31,250

### Assistant Officer

**Education:** Minimum Bachelor Degree in Accounting/Business Administration/English/Finance/Law/Management/Public Administration.

**Experience:** Minimum 6 years experience in administrative job in any large academic institution and/or other organization.


**Other requisites:** Ability and experience in taking notes and dictations; drafting letters and memos; preparing statements, reports, speeches and messages; maintaining files, records and documents are essential. Good command in both English and Bengali is necessary. Well conversant in application and operation of PCs. Excellent typing skill in both Bengali and English is a must.

**Age:** Not more than 35 years      **Pay Scale:** TK. 8,000-800-20,000

**Other benefits:** House rent allowance, medical allowance, provident fund, gratuity, insurance, festival bonuses and free medical consultancy services.

**Academic attainments:** All positions require minimum two first class/divisions with no third class/division and CGPA, where applicable, not below 3.50

The position sought must be clearly stated on the envelope. Only short-listed candidates will be called for tests and interview. Candidates who applied earlier and who do not exactly meet the academic qualifications, relevant experiences and other requisites, as stated above, need not to apply. Please apply giving detailed CV with a passport size photograph and copies of all certificates and testimonials by **03 February 2011 to:**



**The Chairman**  
**NSU Foundation**  
NSU Campus, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229