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By setting up stone-crushing machines on the banks of the river Piyang at Jaflong in Sylhet, traders have been running stone chips business for years. The dust and noise generated from these machines not only spoil the popular tourist site but also pose serious health hazards.

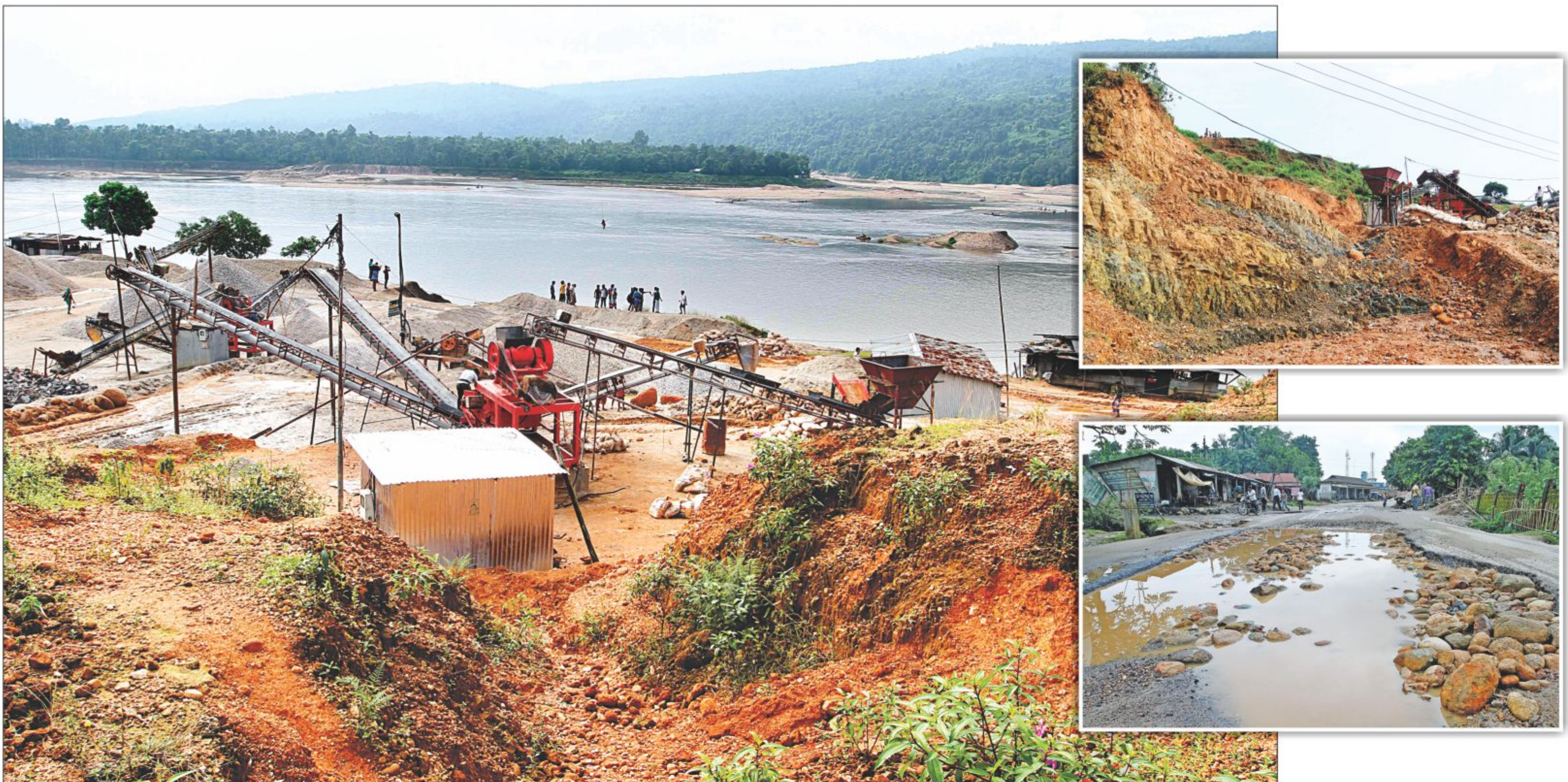


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Rooppur nuke project opens tomorrow

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Rooppur people in Pabna are now in upbeat mood as the first phase work for the proposed Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) is going to be inaugurated tomorrow. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the country's first ever nuclear power plant. Sergey Kirienko, director general of Russia's state-owned nuclear power operator, Rosatom, is also expected to attend the programme.

Under an agreement with the government, Rosatom will construct two units



Sergey Kirienko

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POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' DEMANDS

Demo stopped after govt assurance

Vandalism, clashes continue

STAR REPORT

Students of polytechnic institutes yesterday afternoon postponed their countrywide demonstrations for 15 days after receiving assurances from the government of meeting their demands.

They will take their final exams, which they had boycotted on Sunday, if the authorities concerned within the next two days set free their fellow students detained by the law enforcers during the countrywide demonstrations.

The decisions came after several govern-

ment high officials, including the education secretary, held a meeting with the leaders of the agitating students and several organisations of diploma engineers at the education ministry.

Meanwhile, 75 more people, including policemen and journalists, were injured and many vehicles vandalised in Rajshahi, Bogra, Sylhet, Khulna and Feni as the students staged violent demonstrations yesterday demanding timely promotions in jobs and withdrawal of the entry-level position (supervisor) introduced for diploma engineers in 2008.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

FOOD ADULTERATION Complainant to get 25pc of fine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-five percent of the money to be realised through penalties against food adulterators will go to the plaintiffs if a new food safety bill is passed by parliament.

According to the Safe Food Act, 2013, placed in the House yesterday, complainants against food adulteration will be rewarded with one-fourth the amount of fine to be imposed on adulterators.

However, officials

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TAX HOLIDAY

Cap on Grameen's privilege likely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry will place the new Grameen Bank Act in the cabinet meeting on Thursday with a proposal to cap the tax-exemption privilege for the microlender for a certain period.

"The tax holiday benefit for Grameen Bank might be capped for a fixed period through a notification," Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday. Grameen Bank has been enjoying income tax exemption since its inception in 1983, but the privilege ended in December 2010.

The bank then sought extension of the privilege for five more years from January 1, 2011. The government agreed, but the National Board of Revenue began executing the order from July 1, 2011, meaning the bank had to pay income tax for the previous six months.

In May 2011, the government compelled Grameen Bank to pay an advance income tax of Tk 10 crore, and later again granted tax exemption status for 2011-2015, according to the Yunus Centre.

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Tax return deadline now Oct 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday extended the deadline for submission of income tax returns by one month to October 31.

The extension came following a demand from leading business chambers and different tax bar associations, said NBR in a release. "It should be given more time to complete taxpayer identification number (TIN) registration and re-registration online comfortably as it is a new system," mentioned the release.

Yesterday was the last day for submitting income tax returns.

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PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

An ambulance inches its way through medicine traders demonstrating on a road in Old Dhaka's Mitford area yesterday. The protest was against the recent detention of around 100 traders for selling fake and unauthorised drugs.

Medicine traders threaten strike

Press for release of fellows, return of seized drugs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medicine traders have threatened to keep their shops shut throughout the country on Thursday if the government does not address their complaints regarding Saturday's drive against the sale of unauthorised medicines in the capital's Mitford.

Keeping their shops shut since Sunday, the medicine traders of Mitford, Babubazar and Islampur demanded the release of their fellow traders, reopening of the sealed shops, and the return of the medicines seized in the drive.

"All medicine shops across the country will remain closed from 6:00am to 10:00pm on Thursday if our demands are not met, and the complaints against the drive are addressed," said Sadequr Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Samity (BCDS), while addressing a scheduled protest rally in front of the BCDS Bhawan around 11:00am yesterday.

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Mir Quasem's trial shifted to tribunal-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case filed against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali for alleged offences committed during the Liberation War was yesterday shifted to International Crimes Tribunal-2 from Tribunal-1 for quick disposal.

The same day was fixed for commencement of the trial.

Quasem, 60, a member

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PRAYER TIMING			October 1
Fajr	4-45	Jamaat	5-20
Zohr	12-45		1-15
Asr	4-15		4-30
Maghrib	5-53		5-56
Esha	7-30		8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think a favourable minimum wage will help end labour unrest in the garment sector?

Yes

No

(65%)

(35%)

TOTAL VOTES: 182

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with TIB that deputy commissioners should not be appointed as returning officers in the upcoming national election, taking into consideration the issue of 'politicisation in administration'?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

Polls expense ceiling to be Tk 25 lakh

Bill placed to change RPO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday placed a bill in parliament proposing changes in the Representation of the People Order to increase the ceiling of individual election expenditure and donation for political parties.

According to the proposal, a candidate may spend maximum of Tk 25 lakh in the next parliamentary polls. The ceiling has been Tk 15 lakh since the 2008 general election.

Individuals and organisations would also be able to donate more to political

parties once the proposals are translated into laws.

An individual would be allowed to donate to a party up to Tk 25 lakh, 10 lakh more than the current ceiling. An organisation or a company may donate up to Tk 50 lakh. Currently, they can donate Tk 25 lakh at the maximum to a political party.

The bill, placed by the law minister, also proposed increasing security deposit of a candidate to Tk 20,000 from the existing Tk 10,000.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

250 varieties of apple on one tree

MAIL ONLINE

From Granny Smith and Golden Delicious to Brownlee's Russet and Wadhurst Pippin, if you like apple then Paul Barnett is your man.

He has 250 varieties available to pick -- and astonishingly, they're all growing on just one tree.

The horticulturist has spent 24 years meticulously developing the tree in his

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