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MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER



Hard days for miners

No production in Madhyapara hard rock mine for over 8 months; traders importing rock from India

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Rock extraction at Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur has remained suspended for over eight months due to lack of necessary equipment, making nearly 800 local miners jobless.

Belarus-based Germania-Trest Consortium (GTC) hired the workers on a daily basis after it signed a contract with state-run Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGML), tasked with the production and sale of the rocks, in September 2013.

The miners are passing extremely hard days as they have not got a single penny since August last year, when the production was suspended.

"I looked for other jobs to feed my family. But I did not get one," said Mohammad Rezaul, the lone breadwinner in his family of six.

"After the work stopped, we were told that it would resume in a month. It has been over eight months now."

Several other miners said they borrowed money from others and sold their valuables to feed their families.

Many children in the area had to quit school as their parents could not pay the tuition fees.

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Left, rocks imported from India piled up at Hili Land Port in Dinajpur. Traders have to import rocks from India as production at the state-run Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd, inset, remains suspended for over eight months. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Shab-e-Meraj on May 4

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed across the country on the night of May 4 as the moon of Hijri month of Rajab was sighted yesterday in Bangladesh.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision in a meeting.

Religious Affairs Ministry Joint Secretary Mohammad Amzad Ali chaired the meeting held at Islamic Foundation of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital in the evening.

Muslims every year on the 27th of Rajab observe the Shab-e-Meraj, the night Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) embarked on a special journey to meet Allah.

CHILDREN IN DHAKA Study shows dismal picture of lifestyle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of children in Dhaka city do not maintain a healthy, discipline lifestyle, which affects their physical and mental development, researchers said in a new survey.

Seventy four percent of the surveyed children aged between 7 and 15 years do not eat timely while 59 percent do not do any physical exercise.

Besides, 18 percent children do not want to cooperate with their parents in household chores, and interestingly, 8 percent children prefer loneliness, according to the survey.

Also, 59 percent children do not wash their clothes on their own, while 22 percent do not keep their study tables and books organised.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba), Pallima Green Sangsad and Martial Art Foundation conducted the month-long survey on daily lifestyle and surroundings of 1,451 students of two private and two public schools in Dhaka city in March this year.

Poba Joint General Secretary Lelin Chowdhury presented the findings at a press conference at Pallima Sangsad office in the city yesterday.

The survey also found that 25 percent of the children are overweight and 8 percent are overweight, while 20 percent suffered from various diseases including allergy, kidney, liver and other diseases, he said.

Child psychologist Sadia Sharmin Urme, who was involved in the survey, said the findings indicate how the children in urban areas maintain an indiscipline life.

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BANSHKHALI Govt urged to relocate power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday urged the government to meet people's demand by relocating the power plant from Gondamara union of Banskhal.

Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the platform, made the request at a rally on the premises of Paschim Gondamara Government Primary School where four protesters were shot dead on April 4.

Villagers of the area have been protesting against installation of a coal-fired power plant and demanding its relocation.

"We denounce the attack on the unarmed and innocent people by police and goons and the murder of innocent

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Key piece of aging puzzle identified

AGENCIES

An anti-ageing pill that could help us live up to a decade longer has moved a step closer with the discovery of a key component of the ageing process.

Protein molecules – known as GSK-3 – are responsible for short

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Construction or sham?

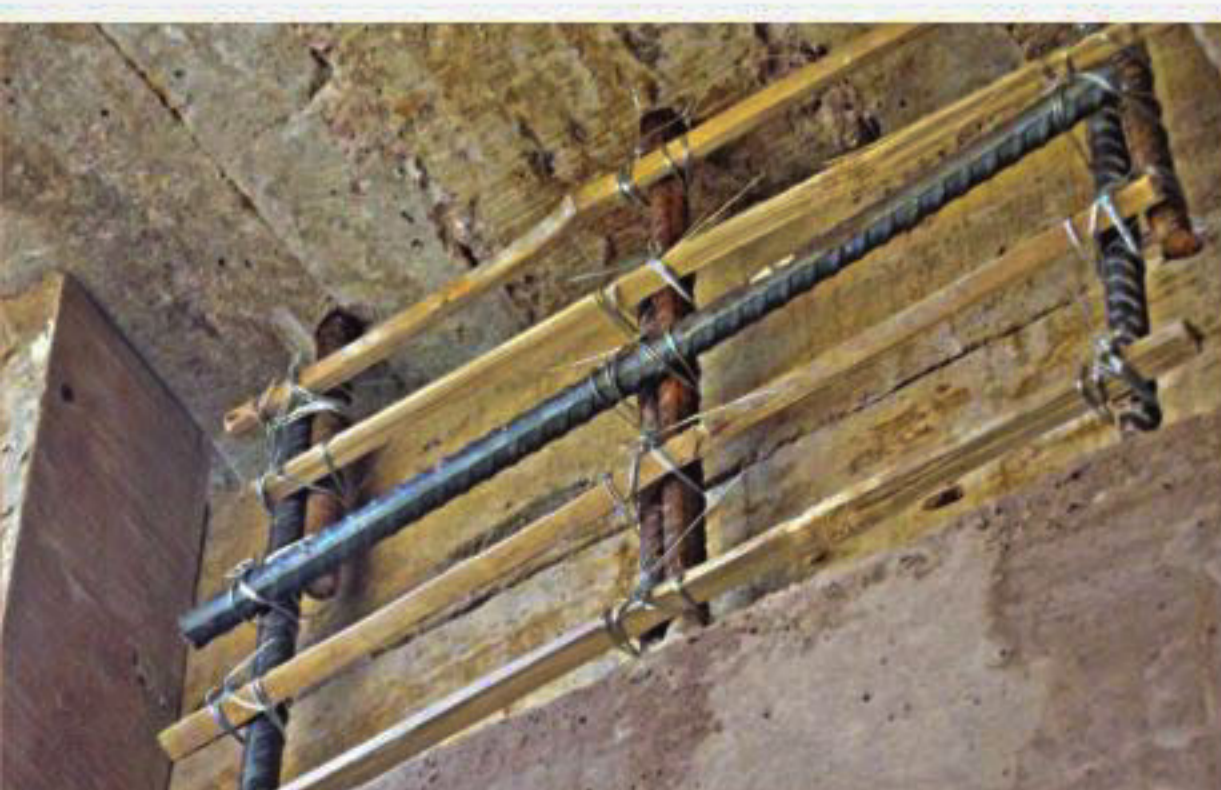
AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Believe it or not, part of a government-funded building has been constructed using bamboo sticks in place of iron rods.

If not found by some youths, this could have led to a disaster. The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) of Chuadanga last year got a Tk 2.41 crore fund to build the two-storey Biological Research Centre and Lab in Darshana under Damurhuda upazila.

Joy Construction Ltd of Dhaka is constructing the building. So far, 65 percent work has been done and the building was scheduled to be handed over to the DAE in June.

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Nothing to say. The photos show it all.

SUU KYI'S AMNESTY PLEDGE Myanmar frees student activists

AFP, Tharrawaddy

A Myanmar court yesterday freed dozens of jailed students, in the first wave of detainee releases after Aung San Suu Kyi pledged to make releasing activists and political prisoners the first priority of her new government.

There were jubilant scenes at the sweltering central Myanmar courthouse in Tharrawaddy, as a judge told young activists they could go home more than a year after they were arrested over an education protest that was violently crushed by police in March 2015.

"You 69 are all freed now (from this case) without charge," said township Judge Chit Myat, though at least three activists in the group will remain in prison because they face hearings in other courts.

Myanmar has scores of political prisoners languishing in its jails and hundreds of detained activists awaiting trial, despite reforms in recent years as the military loosened its grip on power following half a century of repressive rule.

Suu Kyi said Thursday she would prioritise releasing activists -- an issue laden with significance for herself and scores of MPs in her party once jailed for democracy activism during the junta era.

The statement was not followed by an official amnesty notice from President Htin Kyaw, but families nevertheless crowded at prison gates around the country since early morning hoping to reunite with their loved ones.

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TONU MURDER CID quizzes 2 army men

UNB, Comilla

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has interrogated several persons, including two army men, in the last two days over the killing of college girl Sohagi Jahan Tonu.

A CID team, headed by Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand of Dhaka, took the army men to Comilla CID office

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 9

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45

JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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