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No hope for Kutubdia

Despite wind turbine power projects, most of Kutubdia residents left in darkness

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT with ANDREW EAGLE

Time has changed little on Cox's Bazar's Kutubdia Island. Tides rise and fall, waves crash upon the beach while people are busy with salt production and fishing, just as they always have been. The island's limited electricity has proved a similarly unchanging reality. Despite government efforts including one windmill project completed and another underway, most of Kutubdia's 1.75 lakh residents have, for decades, been left in the dark.

"We really only have a diesel generator in Baro Ghop, the main town," says Alauddin Al Azad, chairman of Dukhin Dhurang Union. "Of the six unions on the island, five have no regular electricity supply."

According to resident Power Development Board (PDB) engineer Sajjad Siddique, the 400 kilowatt capacity generator in the town currently supplies 746 subscribers for five hours per day from 6:00pm. But even the generator is unreliable.

"Due to the power crisis many islanders are trying solar," says Baro Ghop resident Ariful Islam, who is fortunate to live close enough to access the generator supply.

But while for wealthier homes the blessing of a solar panel is a possible solution, most of Kutubdia's students remain beholden to their own age-old village schooling tradition: struggling to study of an evening by the flicker of kerosene lamplight.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



This wind farm, which was out of order for 10 years, at Puratan Shanti Bazar in Cox's Bazar's Kutubdia Island now provides electricity to 111 subscribers and that too for a few hours a day. At times, there is no electricity supply for even a week. The photo was taken last month.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

7 BSF men suspended

India opens probe into killing of Bangladeshi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has suspended seven Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in connection with the killing of a Bangladeshi national along Jibannagar border in Chuadanga on Saturday.

The BSF has also formed a committee to investigate the incident, according to a press statement issued by the High Commission of India in Dhaka yesterday.

Shihab Uddin Sajal, 18, of Goalpara of Jibannagar upazila, was killed and three others were injured when BSF men opened fire on them.

The victims were plucking mangoes from a tree at an orchard along the border, according to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources.

Yesterday's Indian High Commission statement said the BSF conveyed that a Staff Court of Inquiry had immediately been constituted to investigate the circumstances under which the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Crude bomb hurled at Khulna jail super's house

No one injured

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unidentified criminals exploded a homemade bomb in front of the official residence of Khulna district jail superintendent last night.

No one was injured in the incident. However, the headlight of the jail super's car was partially damaged in the explosion.

The house is located on Khulna General Hospital Road.

Jail Superintendent Qamrul Islam along with his wife and daughter was preparing to go out around 9:30pm. As they were about to board the car, a bomb exploded around 20 feet away from the gate of the residence, said police and witnesses.

Police recovered some fragments of the bomb as evidence. Additional police were deployed there.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

IS suicide attacks in Yemen, Iraq kill 51

AGENCIES

A suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State group and a second attack killed 37 police yesterday in the Yemeni port of Mukalla where a year of al-Qaeda rule was ended just last month, medics said.

The jihadist group also launched a coordinated suicide assault yesterday on a natural gas plant north of Baghdad that killed at least 14 people, according to Iraqi officials.

In Mukalla, the bomber detonated an explosives belt as he joined a line of men at a police recruiting centre, a provincial official said.

More than sixty people were wounded in the attack in Fuwah district, a medical source said.

Hadamawt's security chief, General Mubarak al-Oubthani, who was at the recruitment centre at the time of the attack but was not hurt, was the target of a second bombing when he headed into central Mukalla afterwards, a security official said.

The bomb exploded as Oubthani walked out of his office, killing six of his guards but leaving him with only minor injuries, the official said.

An IS statement posted online claimed the suicide attack, a second rare intervention by the jihadist group in an area known to be a stronghold of its al-Qaeda rivals, reports AFP.

"Brother Abu al-Bara al-Ansari... detonated his explosives belt at a gathering of the apostates of the security forces," it said.

On Thursday, 15 Yemeni troops were killed in jihadist attacks on army positions outside Mukalla. IS said one of its militants blew up a vehicle packed with explosives in an army base in Khalf district on the city's eastern outskirts.

IRAQ TARGETED

The attack on the natural gas plant started at dawn with a suicide car bomber hitting the main gate of the plant in the town of Taji, about 20 kilometers north of Baghdad.

Then several suicide bombers and militants broke into the plant and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

CMP to prepare database of Ctg dwellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday announced that the area it covers would be divided into 135 beats to create a database of local people, criminals, establishments and the characteristics of crimes at specific spots.

It also banned the use of various occupational stickers like those of journalist, police, advocate, CMP and doctor on vehicles.

CMP Commissioner Iqbal Bahar made the announcement at a press conference held on the occasion of the inauguration of beat policing at the CMP headquarters in the port city.

Earlier on May 4, stickers of different professions were banned in the Dhaka metropolitan area to prevent criminals from using those to their advantage.

Iqbal said every police station would have five to 15 beats under its jurisdiction and a sub-inspector would be in-charge of a beat and would collect information about the area.

"Beat policing would help determine the characteristics of crimes occurring in a beat area."

At the conference, the CMP also directed city dwellers not to use hydraulic

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Robot to clean up your stomach



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A joint team of American and British scientists have developed a tiny 'origami robot', which can be swallowed and used to remove foreign objects from the stomach.

The robot, created by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Sheffield and the Tokyo Institute of Technology, is small enough to fit inside an ordinary gel capsule.

Once inside the stomach, the robot's origami structure unfolds, allowing doctors to move it around from outside the patient's body with magnets.

It isn't a robot in the conventional sense. Rather than being made of moving parts and electronics, it's simply a folded sheet of thin paper-like material, mostly made up of dried pig intestine.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

NIZAMI'S HANGING Turkey now lashes out at 'Europe's silence'

AFP, Ankara

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday lashed out at Europe's silence over the execution of Motiur Rahman Nizami in Bangladesh, accusing the West of "double standards."

"If you are against political executions, why did you remain silent on the execution of Motiur Rahman Nizami who was martyred a couple of days ago," Erdogan said in a televised speech in Istanbul.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing May 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36
JAMAAT	4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40
				8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

TRANSPORT STRIKE People suffer in 21 districts

STAR REPORT

The ongoing 48-hour road transport strike that began at 6:00am yesterday in 21 districts of the country's south western region caused immense sufferings to passengers.

Businessmen incurred losses too as their goods-laden vehicles remained stranded in several places due to the strike, reported our correspondents.

Transport owners and workers are enforcing the strike demanding withdrawal of two compensation cases filed against two bus operators.

Noted filmmaker Tareque Masud, media personality Ashfaque Munier Mishuk and three others died in a fatal road crash on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj on August 13, 2011.

After the accident, Catherine Masud, widow of Tareque Masud, filed a compensation case against the owner and driver of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Clockwise, closed outlets of Agora, Meena Bazaar, Nandan and Swapno in the capital. Bangladesh Supermarket Owners Association kept all their outlets across the country closed yesterday protesting "harassment through implementation of a discriminatory policy and misuse of law".

Scientific tests before action

Superstore owners urge the government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Superstore owners yesterday urged the government to scientifically test any product from their shelves before taking action based on allegations of selling substandard or adulterated foods.

"We have no objection if the government takes action based on scientific examinations at the reputed laboratories," said Md Zakir Hossain, general secretary of the Bangladesh Supermarket Owners Association.

The association held a press conference at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital, pressing home to stop "misuse of law and harassment" in the name of ensuring safe food, as operators of nearly 100 superstores kept their outlets shut in protest yesterday.

The move came after a mobile court last week fined Agora, Meena Bazaar and fast food chain Coopers on charges of keeping expired and stale food items at their shops in the capital's Shantinagar.

The mobile court of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority under the food ministry sentenced Agora's Shantinagar branch manager Monirul Islam to two years' imprisonment, according to a food ministry press release.

It also fined the manager of the Agora outlet Tk 2 lakh and the in-charge of Meena Bazaar and manager of Coopers Tk 3 lakh each on the same charges.

Zakir said all superstores would remain open today. The association claimed that supermarkets had introduced various scientific methods in the country to supply

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6