



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over cheques to swimmer Mahfuza Khatun Shila, weightlifter Mabia Akter and shooter Shakil Ahmed for winning gold medals in South Asian Games at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. The 12th South Asian Games was held in India in February. PHOTO: PTD

# Bangladesh, CIL talk on coal imports

PTI, New Delhi

India's biggest coal company CIL is in "deep consultation" with Bangladesh to export the dry fuel, Coal Secretary Anil Swarup said yesterday.

The development comes in the backdrop of a sharp decline in demand for coal as well as with an inventory of over 80 million tonnes of the fuel at the pitheads and power plants.

"We are already into it and they (CIL) are in very deep consultations with Bangladesh for exporting it," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

Exports to Bangladesh would also aid CIL in increasing sales as India in July inked a landmark deal with Bangladesh to construct a 1,320 mw coal fired power plant, the biggest project under bilateral cooperation.

On the decline in offtake and volumes, he said as of March 31, there was an inventory of over 80 MT both at the pitheads and power plants.

"Where would they stock the coal. We had more than 80 MT. Now if your entire production in 500 odd MT and you have 80 MT of stocks, you will have to look at it and that is why CIL did not produce more. Second reason is that in August there were unusual rains,

which impacted mining.

"I don't think it is an issue as they (CIL) will catch up as there is exposed coal available and can meet the requirements," he added.

On coal production target, Swarup said the ministry is working towards achieving the coal production target of one billion tonnes and will decide on reviewing this after 2-3 years. The government has not scrapped this target.

The government has set a production target of 598 MT for CIL for the ongoing financial year. The miner is eyeing to double its production to billion tonnes by 2020.

When asked about subdued demand, he said the government does not make plans keeping in view the present situation.

Explaining further, he said: "We plan for the future. Our power plants are working at a plant load factor (PLF) of 62 per cent, but in the future we believe this PLF will go to 70 per cent and that is the time when we will have more demand."

"Also additional capacity will be added. So there is no logic in bringing down coal production. What will we do if there is demand in the future?"

## Road to Rangpur

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the planning ministry said in the proposal.

A one-way service road will be built on both sides of the highway from Elega to Rangpur Modern Crossing on Dhaka-Rangpur Highway, which will be used by slow-moving vehicles like rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and bicycles.

Flyovers will be built at Elega, Kodda crossing and Gobindaganj, and a rail overpass at Bogra, which will help vehicles avoid traffic jam in these areas.

A two-tier interchange will be built at Hatikamrul crossing, which will ensure signal-less uninterrupted traffic movement to Rajshahi, Nagarbari and Rangpur.

To make road crossing easy and safer, 39 underpasses for vehicles and an equal number of footbridges will be built on the highway. As a result the number of accidents will come down to almost zero, said planning ministry officials.

The Ecne yesterday approved six more projects, including BSCIC industrial park at Munshiganj at Tk 1,013 crore.

The industrial park will be set up at Tongibari upazila, 8.5km west and 5km south of Dhaka-Mawa highway. It will have 184 plots of 6,000 square feet each, 72 of 4,500 sft, 112 plots of 3,000 sft and 55 plots of 2,400-7,000 sft each.

## SP Babul Akter

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Mosharrar Hossain said, "Babul is not at home now. I heard the news from the media ... Babul will decide if he wants to go for a legal battle."

SP Babul came under the spotlight after the brutal murder of his wife Mahmuda Akter Mitu. On June 5, three assailants stabbed and shot Mitu to death after she had left her OR Nizam Road house on foot around 6:35am to put her son on a school bus at GEC Intersection in Chittagong.

In his letter requesting reinstatement of his job, Babul stated that he plunged into uncertainty with his two kids following his wife's murder.

"When I was passing the toughest time of my life, I was compelled to sign my resignation letter on June 24," he wrote, without mentioning who had forced him to sign the letter.

Babul said he was an honest police officer and his job was the only means of survival of his two children.

On June 24, Babul was picked up from his father-in-law's house at Meradia in the capital and was interrogated for 15 hours at the office of the Detective Branch of police on Minto Road.

At that time, police sources said that during the interrogation, Babul signed the resignation letter after he was given two options -- either to resign or face trial for his alleged involvement in his wife's murder.

However, the top brass of the police refuted Babul's claim, saying he was not forced to sign the resignation letter and that he did it willingly.

The confusion over Babul's job status deepened when Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque, at a programme on July 21, said, "SP Babul Akter is still in his job, but remains absent from office."

"If he continues to do so, the police headquarters will take departmental action against him," he told the media.

## Tarique

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Tarique Rahman on January 5 last year.

Tarique Rahman, accused in 19 other cases, was for the first time sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and fined Tk 20 crore by the High Court on July 21 in a money laundering case.

Four arrest warrants were earlier issued against Tarique in four cases including the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Abdus Salam, former chairman of ETV, is also accused in four other cases including a corruption case.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case, Inspector Emdadul Haque of Detective Branch, submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The IO showed Tarique, Mahathir and Kanak as fugitives in the charge sheet and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against them as Tarique and Mahathir did not secure any bail while Kanak went into hiding after securing bail. Salam is now in jail.

The court fixed September 29 to decide whether the charges brought against the four will be accepted.

According to the case statement, Tarique, in his nearly 50-minute-long speech, said the chief justice cannot do justice to anyone after offering prayers at the grave of a political leader and delivering political speeches.

The case statement also alleged that the duo -- Tarique and Salam -- threatened the country's sovereignty as one of them gave a "false, fabricated and instigating" speech and the other broadcasted it.

Following the case, Salam was shown arrested and remanded in the case. He later gave a confessional statement before a magistrate. Based on Salam's confessional statement, Kanak was arrested and remanded for five days.

## Anjem Choudary

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Choudary faces a maximum possible sentence of 10 years in prison, although Justice Holroyde said there was little precedent for such cases.

The trial heard that the preacher, viewed by officers as a key force in radicalising young Muslims, had been the "mouthpiece" of Omar Bakri Mohammed - the founder of the banned extremist group ALM.

He courted publicity by voicing controversial views on Sharia law, while building up a following of thousands through social media, demonstrations and lectures around the world.

In one speech in March 2013, Choudary, from Ilford, north-east London, set out his ambitions for the Muslim faith to "dominate the whole world".

He said: "Next time when your child is at school and the teacher says, 'What do you want when you grow up? What is your ambition?', they should say, 'To dominate the whole world by Islam, including Britain - that is my ambition.'"

Supporters included Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale, the murderers of Fusilier Lee Rigby, and suspected IS executioner Siddhartha Dhar.

Shortly after the announcement of the caliphate, Choudary held a meeting with his closest aides at a curry house in Mile End Road in east London to discuss it.

Before accepting it was legitimate, he also consulted his "spiritual guide", Omar Bakri Mohammed, currently in jail in Lebanon, and Mohammed Fachry, the head of ALM in Indonesia.

On July 7 2014, the trio's names appeared alongside Rahman's on the oath posted on the internet, which stated the Muhajiroun had "affirmed" the legitimacy of the "proclaimed Islamic Caliphate State".

The defendants followed up by posting on YouTube a series of lectures on the caliphate, which Choudary promoted to more than 32,000 Twitter followers.

The married father-of-five denied encouraging his followers to back the terror group and insisted the oath had been made without his knowledge. He

said of the pledge: "It is completely unnecessary. For the rest of the Muslims it is obedience from the heart."

Despite protesting his innocence, he continued to express extreme views, refusing to denounce the execution of journalist James Foley by so-called jihadi John, aka Mohammed Emwazi, in Syria in 2014.

He told the jury: "If you took an objective view, there are circumstances where someone could be punished."

Choudary's conviction was welcomed by leading British Muslims, who condemned his "evil" and "hateful" views.

After his conviction, Choudary's Twitter account was removed by the social media giant.

## Abul Mansur

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He had remarkable literary aptitudes for creating art, and his two personal memoirs will remain as invaluable documents of social history, said Prof Anisuzzaman.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, called upon all to read the works of Abul Mansur Ahmad and said, "We do not always place all the gifted geniuses deep in our hearts."

Among their contemporary prominent Bangalee political figures, only Abul Mansur Ahmad and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wrote on their political knowledge, said Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam as the chief guest.

Jibon Shilpi Abul Mansur Ahmad, a compilation of essays and speeches featuring Abul Mansur Ahmad, edited by Emran Mahfuz, was unveiled on the occasion.

One of the greatest satirists of Bangla literature, Abul Mansur Ahmad was a renowned politician, lawyer and a powerful journalist.

He worked for Krishak, Nabajug and was the editor of the daily Ittehad published from Kolkata in 1946 in undivided Bengal. He was a pioneer in modern and progressive journalism.

A successful politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad was the provincial education minister in the United Front Cabinet under Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and the central commerce and industries minister of the Awami League government of Prime Minister Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy in 1957.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's publications include satires like Aina, Asmani Purdah, Gulliver Safarnama and Food Conference. His works also include insightful writings on social and political history of Bengal. He has two autobiographical writings -- Atma Katha (about myself) and Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachar (50 years of politics as I saw it).

He was the author of the famous Ekush Dafa (21 points programme) election manifesto of the Jukta Front in the 1954 election.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was born in September 3, 1898 at Dhanikhola village in Trishal Thana of Mymensingh.

## Khulna

FROM PAGE 2

Bonny, Bipul and Shujon, while the contestants of Dhaka Dholoks were Nafis, Mati, Shahanz and Al Saba.

Addressing the function, Transcom Beverages Ltd Deputy Managing Director Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury said, "7up has not only been recognised as the best beverage for the past six years in a row, but has also earned a position in the hearts of the youth for the numerous cultural programmes and activities the brand has partnered till date."

Channel i Director and Head of News Shaikh Siraj said, "We are extremely glad to have initiated such an innovative musical competition for the country."

Asiatic Sixty Managing Director Sara Zaker said, "We are grateful to each and every person who made this event a success and for staying with us as always."

## Police shoot

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around 6:00am, said Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He said on information, a patrol team of Shahbagh police chased them to Road-3 in Dhanmondi.

At one stage, the criminals stopped the car there as police put a barricade on the road.

Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said when the criminals were trying to flee the scene, police opened fire, injuring Sagar and Hazrat and caught Bashar from the spot.

Sagar and Hazrat were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Sagar dead.

With bullet wounds in his left leg, Hazrat was undergoing treatment there under police custody, the police official said.

The OC added that they seized the vehicle.

Police recovered a handbag from the detainees' possession. A bus ticket for travelling to Satkhira from Dhaka and a mobile set were found inside the bag.

Deputy Commissioner Maruf said during primary interrogation, Bashar told police that they took the vehicle from one of their accomplices who is also involved in different criminal activities, including snatching, in Gazipur.

He said Bashar stands accused in at least two mugging cases.

## Shykh Seraj's

FROM PAGE 5

Philippines, Bangladesh Economic Association Gold Medal, UK's BCA Golden Jubilee Honour Award, prestigious recognition from British House of Commons, Green Award from Birmingham community, Dr Ibrahim Memorial Gold Medal, and Ranada Prasad Saha Gold Medal.

## 7.3m under

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between Agriculture and Nutrition: Bangladesh Case," in the capital's Brac Centre Inn, said a press release.

Brac's Research and Evaluation Department organised the programme under an international research programme of Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA).

"Nutrition problem is extreme in Bangladesh. Forty-five percent of children in haors are stunted. To prevent this situation, Brac initiated a pilot project in 2013 at upzila level," said Barnali Chakraborty, a senior research fellow of Brac's Research and Evaluation Department.

Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, secretary of the agriculture ministry, was present as the chief guest at the programme.

## Raise voice for their trials

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terrorists and militants? She didn't feel any pain for those who were burned to death. But why is she feeling pain for militants?"

"The mystery behind this should have to be unearthed. A question arises whether it was her desire that the militants killed more people," she went to say.

The law enforcement agencies conducted the anti-militancy operations in Gulshan, Kalyanpur and Narayanganj like those carried out in other countries, she stated. "The terrorists would have killed more people had the law enforcers not been able to stamp them out in their successful operations."

She also expressed satisfaction that awareness has now been created across the country against terrorism and militancy and people from all strata, including teachers, students, parents and guardians, are united.

The AL chief urged people to stay alert so that terrorism and militancy could never make a comeback in Bangladesh.

Mentioning that her government had been able to resolve the Holey Artisan hostage crisis in just 10 hours, Hasina said no other country in the world could have accomplished such a job in such a short period.

The PM remembered torture and looting unleashed by the anti-liberation forces at her village in Tungipara of Gopalganj. She said her government was holding the trial of war criminals so that those who lost their near and dear ones during the Liberation War get justice.

About the cases filed against the BNP leaders and its chief Khaleda Zia, she said they burned people to death in a bid to foil the January 5, 2014 national election. "Those who oppressed people and hampered their livelihood must be brought to justice."

The premier said the former BNP-Jamaat government had filed some

129 cases against AL leader Haji Selim and also dozens of cases against her.

"We're really busy carrying out development activities in the country. We don't have time to file any false cases against them," she added.

Members of the AL central working committee, advisory council and the convener and member secretary of the 20th National Council Preparatory Committee were present.

**ALCWC TO GET BIGGER**

The meeting in principal decided to expand the AL central working committee (ALCWC), the party's apex decision-making body, reports our correspondent.

The committee currently has 73 members -- the president, general secretary, 13 presidium members, 19 secretaries, two deputy secretaries, three joint general secretaries, seven organising secretaries, one treasurer and 26 members.

Following expansion, the committee would have 81 members, including new secretaries and organising secretaries, said meeting sources.

On September 11 last year, the ALCWC decided to create three more divisional units -- Mymensingh, Faridpur and Comilla. Three more organising secretaries would be assigned to the new divisions.

The AL's 20th national council, scheduled to be held on October 23, would pick leaders to fill in three vacant posts of the presidium, the party's highest policy-making body.

Three posts in the presidium lie vacant now following the death of Zohra Tajuddin and expulsion of Latif Siddique from the party. The other post has been vacant since the party's 2012 national council.

The meeting also decided to incorporate the party's Vision 2041 into its declaration. The mega projects of the government and its achievements would be included in the AL's charter, said sources.

## Holidaymakers stranded

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deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

With two ferry landing stations at Daulatdia out of service, more than 700 vehicles including buses, private cars and trucks remain stranded in long queues at a time.

Cloudy sky and drizzling besides installation of one of the landing stations on Monday that has been closed since August 6 have however eased the sufferings of the stranded people to some extent.

Shariful Islam, who was travelling with his family to Satkhira, posted on Facebook about his painful journey, "Finally came the coveted moment after being stranded for four hours in a long queue. Got a ferry and it's a huge relief."

He told The Daily Star that he started the journey around 8:00am from capital's Kalyanpur. It took more than nine hours to reach Faridpur. "There is huge current in the river which has been hampering ferry services," he said.

"It cannot be said at the moment that the situation has improved. We are still trying to improve it," Shafiqul Islam, manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation at Paturia, told The Daily Star.

He added, "We apprehend huge rush of vehicles in a day or two. If the two ghats cannot be reinstated, things will really be messed up and people will have to suffer a lot ahead of Eid."

Around 3,500 vehicles on average move on the route every day. The number is likely to reach up to 6,500 ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Ferry services have been disrupted since mid-July due to damages occurring on the landing stations, river erosion and strong current.

Contacted, Ashoke Madhab Roy, secretary to the Ministry of Shipping, told The Daily Star they have taken up hectic efforts to reinstall all the ferry stations before Eid.

"We are trying our best. Hopefully, we will be able to reduce public sufferings in the days to come," he added.

## Joint Secretary

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soon be effective.

Munir earned prominence for his fight against corruption and brave role in recovering government lands while discharging duties as a magistrate of Chittagong port.

He turned the corruption-ridden Milk Vita into a profitable organisation.

Before this appointment, Munir served as secretary to the Dhaka Power Distribution Company, which managed to earn to a huge amount of revenue because of a special taskforce led by Munir.

Meanwhile, an ACC team yesterday arrested AK Azad, the owner of Lotus Steel Corporation, at the capital's Mohammadpur for his alleged involvement in the misappropriation of Tk 6 crore of Basic Bank.