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Just vanished

Over 1.42 lakh tonnes coal 'go missing' from Barapukuria coal mine; 4 top officials face the music

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The managing director and a general manager of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) have been withdrawn after around 1.42 lakh tonnes of coal, worth over Tk 227 crore, reportedly went missing.

Petrobangla, the parent organisation of the BCMCL, has also suspended another general manager and a deputy general manager in this connection.

Habib Uddin Ahmed, who became the BCMCL MD in April last year, has been made officer on special duty (OSD) and attached him to Petrobangla and Abul Kashem Prodhania, a general manager and the company secretary, has been stand released and attached to Pashchimanchal Gas Company Ltd in Sirajganj.

The suspended officials are Abu Taher Md Nur-Uz Zaman Chowdhury, general manager (mine operation), and Khaledul Islam, deputy general manager (store).

The four is facing further action for their negligence in duty, said a BCMCL official.

The company should have a coal stock of around 1.42 lakh tonnes at its coal yard, but there is not a single tonne of fresh coal now there, said a BCMCL general manager, citing official documents.

The current market price of coal is Tk 16,000 a tonne, said Md Anisuzzaman, deputy general manager (marketing) of the company.

The matter of "missing" coal came to light on Monday when Abu Sayeed, a board member of BPDDB, visited the coal mine.

The coal production of BCMCL has remained suspended for more than a month as the equipment and machinery is being shifted from one coalface underground to another, SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



BNP leaders, activists and supporters join a rally in front of the party headquarters in Nayapaltan yesterday demanding release and proper treatment of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, jailed in a graft case.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 592,000 live in modern slavery in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 592,000 people in Bangladesh could be living in modern slavery, a condition of servitude defined as forced and state-imposed labour, sexual servitude and forced marriage, says The Global Slavery Index 2018 released on July 19.

This means 3.67 per 1,000 people face the situation in the country that ranks the 92nd among the 167 countries surveyed by Australia's Walk Free Foundation.

"It is a confronting reality that even in the present day, men, women and children all over the world remain victims of modern slavery.

They are bought and sold in public markets, forced to marry against their will and provide labour under the guise of marriage, forced to work inside clandestine factories on the promise of a salary that is often withheld ...," said the report. SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

UNIFORM ADMISSION TEST

A distant dream?

The decision remains on paper for eight years

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government has failed to introduce a uniform admission test, which has been overdue for eight years.

Even a decision to begin the uniform admission procedure, known as "cluster system admission", first with the agricultural universities from this year has also been discarded on grounds of "lack of time for preparations", although the decision was made in November last year.

During a meeting at the University Grants Commission (UGC) on July 9, the vice-chancellors of the agriculture universities said admissions tests would begin in two to three months and they could not take preparations within that time.

But, they asserted that they would enrol students in a cluster system from the next academic year.

Under the cluster system, admission seekers will be enrolled at those universities based on the merit list prepared from a single test. For example, students would take one test for a place in any of the science and technology universities and another test for a place in any of the agriculture universities.

That would exempt the admission seekers from time, costs and travels required to take separate admission tests at different public universities across the country. At present, only the medical colleges have a uniform entrance test.

The education ministry in 2010 decided in principle to introduce a uniform admission system or a cluster system.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Pakistan EC gives army broad judicial powers

About 371,000 troops will be deployed across the country to guard July 25 election

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's election authorities have granted broad judicial powers to the powerful military at polling stations during next week's general election, a rare move that has fanned concern among political parties and human rights groups.

The July 25 election is seen as a two-way race between parties led by former cricket star Imran Khan and now-jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who has accused the army of working behind the scenes to favour Khan, which it denies.

About 371,000 troops will spread out across Pakistan to guard the election, about three times the number during the last election in 2013.

In a notice this month, the Election Commission gave soldiers the authority of a "magistrate", to hold on-the-spot trials of anyone breaking election laws and sentence them.

In one scenario, those found guilty of the offence of "corrupt practice" could be imprisoned for up to six months.

The authority was given to officers in charge of polling stations, said Altaf Khan, a spokesman for the Election Commission. Asked if the broader responsibility could be misused, he said, "No, not at all... They are our own people."

Some political parties objected to the move, saying the military's traditional election duties have been limited to ensuring security.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

DEATH OF RAIFA Father sues 4 Max doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police finally recorded the case filed by the father of Rafida Khan Raifa, who died at Max Hospital in Chittagong due to doctors' negligence during her treatment.

Raifa's father Rubel Khan, a senior reporter of Bangla daily Samakal, filed the complaint with Chawakbazar Police Station on Wednesday, accusing four doctors.

Police took two days to record the case as they needed to take permission from the higher authorities, said a police official, but SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



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PRAYER TIMING JULY 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

New species of dinosaur found



REUTERS, Washington

With its head and snout covered in bony armor shaped like cones and pyramids, a spiky tank-like dinosaur unearthed in southern Utah was not just another pretty face.

Scientists on Thursday announced the discovery of fossils of a dinosaur named Akainacephalus johnsoni that lived 76 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. It was a four-legged, armor-studded plant-eater with a menacing club at the end of its tail.

It was a member of a dinosaur group called ankylosaurs, among the most heavily armored animals ever on Earth - and for good reason, considering the predators around at the time.

The unique shape and arrangement of its head and snout armor may be its most intriguing trait, the researchers said, giving clues about the Asian ancestry of some of the ankylosaurs that roamed western North America near the end of the dinosaur era.

"Someone once told me that Akainacephalus, and ankylosaurs in general, were quite ugly and SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



A road island on Bijoy Sarani is decorated with images depicting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with global leaders and dignitaries ahead of a public reception for her at the Suhrawardy Udyan today.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

অভিনন্দন

মাননীয় বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী জনাব তোফায়েল আহমেদ এর নিকট থেকে ২০১৪-২০১৫ অর্থ বছরের জাতীয় রপ্তানী ট্রফি গ্রহণ করছেন প্রতীক সিরামিকস্ লিমিটেড এর পরিচালক জনাব গাজী মোঃ হুমায়ুন কবীর। অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের সকল শ্রমিক, কর্মচারী, কর্মকর্তা ও ব্যবসায়ীদের অভিনন্দন এবং অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সর্বপ্রকার আর্থিক সহযোগীতার জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্বনামধন্য আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড কে ধন্যবাদ জানাই।

সৌজন্যে
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