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'DISAPPEARANCE OF COAL' Barapukuria plant faces shutdown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Barapukuria coal-fired power plant is going to shut down in a couple of days for an indefinite period due to its fuel mysteriously disappearing from a yard, officials said.

Two units of the plant, with the capacity of 150MW each, has already been turned off while the other more efficient unit, with a capacity of 275MW, was starving of fuel and was only producing 150MW, said Mahbubur Rahman, superintendent of the power plant in Dinajpur's Parbatipur.

The plant, which depends on coal supplies from Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL), requires 3,300 tonnes of coal a day but now it is using just 600 tonnes.

Mahbub said the plant may shut down on July 25.

The problem surfaced after the mysterious disappearance of 1.42 lakh tonnes of coal, worth about Tk 227 crore, from the BCMCL yard, officials said.

The matter of coal going "missing" came to light on Monday when Abu Sayeed, a board member of Power Development Board (PDB), visited the mine.

At a meeting on June 20 between Petrobangla and PDB officials in the capital, a mine official said coal stock on the yard was around 1.80 lakh tonnes. But in reality, the coal yard was virtually empty.

High officials of Petrobangla and PDB visited the area on Monday and Tuesday and found only around 30,000 tonnes of coal.

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Workers under the supervision of the police and Dhaka district administration dig at a house in Mirpur-10 area yesterday following a general diary filed with a police station that said people might have buried gold inside the house before leaving the country after the Liberation War.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

In search of a 'treasure trove'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and the district administration of Dhaka are looking for "hidden treasure" reportedly kept under a one-storey house in Mirpur during the Liberation War in 1971.

Nothing was found after six hours of excavation at the house in Mirpur-10 yesterday. The excavation was suspended after 20 workers managed to dig 4.5 feet deep into the ground.

The digging began in two rooms of the one-storey building at Block C of Mirpur-10 around 10:30am in presence of Executive Magistrate Md Anwar-Ul-Jaman.

"The building is too old. So, we have suspended the excavation for safety concerns," he said, adding, they would try to seek experts' help and restart the digging today.

Earlier, two general diaries were filed with Mirpur police by one Abu Tayob from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on July 10 and another one by the present house owner, Monirul Alam.

Four policemen have been on guard at the house since Wednesday in connection with the "hidden treasure". The house became talk of the city and locals and enthusiasts thronged the area for last couple of days.

In the GD, Abu Tayob of Teknaf claims there was hidden treasure under the house. He said Dilshad Khan, its original owner and a former airport official, went to Pakistan after 1971.

Tayob learned about the "hidden treasure" from his close friend Syed Alam, who lives in Pakistan and is on a visit to Bangladesh now.

Alam in 2014 informed Tayob that there were

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

ANTI-DRUG DRIVE 4 more killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Four more suspected drug peddlers were killed in reported "gunfights" in four districts early yesterday.

One of them was killed in a "shootout" between two rival groups of drug peddlers in Cox's Bazar while the others died in incidents involving police and Rab in Dinajpur, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj, officials say.

Besides, an alleged drug peddler was injured being shot by police in Lalmonirhat.

With the four included, at least 195 individuals, who according to Rab and police were involved in drug trade, got killed since an anti-narcotics crackdown began on May 4.

Against this backdrop, Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, secretary of security services division at the home ministry, yesterday said it is an "all-out" drive and it will continue until the drug peddlers are wiped out.

The drive will be strengthened in Cox's Bazar to stop the inflow of yaba from Myanmar, the secretary said at a meeting

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Gaza truce holds after flare-up

Fear of wider conflicts mounts a day after deadly Israeli air raids



AFP, Gaza City

A ceasefire announced by Hamas largely held yesterday after a wave of deadly air strikes across the Gaza Strip sparked by the death of an Israeli soldier shot near the border.

The soldier's death was the first linked to Gaza violence since a 2014 war and raised fears Israel's response could spiral into full-out war.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

ROHINGYA CRISIS Key member quits Myanmar advisory panel

AFP, Yangon

A key member of an international advisory panel on Myanmar's crisis-hit Rakhine state has resigned, telling AFP yesterday that the Aung San Suu Kyi-appointed board risks becoming "part of the problem" in a conflict that forced 700,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee.

Retired Thai lawmaker and ambassador Kobsak Chutikul was secretary for the panel hand-picked by civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to advise her government on how to handle the aftermath of a military campaign that drove the minority out of the country.

The brutal crackdown started in August last year and left hundreds of Rohingya villages razed to the ground.

Refugees to Bangladesh have recounted horrifying

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Eyeglasses to prevent motion sickness!

AGENCIES

French car maker Citroën recently unveiled a pair of glasses, liquid-filled eye-glasses that can reportedly treat the symptoms of motion sickness.

Called Seetroën, the ingenious eyeglasses use Boarding Ring technology, which was created by a French start-up of the same name, to treat motion sickness in just a few minutes. According to the official press release, after being worn for 10 to 12 minutes, "the glasses enable the mind to resynchronise with the movement perceived by the inner ear while the eyes were focused on an immobile object such as a smartphone or a book," and

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing July 22
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

BSF shooting kills teen boy in Thakurgaon

BGB protests the incident at flag meeting with BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi teenage boy wounded by BSF firing early yesterday on Kathaldangi border in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon died on his way to hospital.

The deceased was identified as Hossain Ali, 16, son of Mostaq Ali of Kathaldangi village in Haripur.

Lt Colonel Mohammad Hossain, commanding officer of BGB Battalion in Thakurgaon, said BSF members of Nargaon BSF camp opened fire on a group of cattle smugglers around 3:00am when they entered the Indian territory through the border near pillar no 369-2-S.

Hossain Ali was seriously wounded after he was shot on the left side of his chest.

Fellow Bangladeshis somehow managed to

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Workers resurface the thoroughfare of Brahmanbaria town, TA Road, amid rain yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

Paving in the rain!

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

It was raining around 12:30pm yesterday. Despite this, a group of workers, equipped with shovels and rakes, was trying to level freshly laid asphalt on TA Road near Ghorapatty intersection in Brahmanbaria town. Next to them two road rollers were moving in different directions to compact the surface.

The incident left many locals and pedestrians puzzled. They even asked the workers to stop but they did not.

Asked about continuing the road repair despite rain, Sohail Ahmed, sub-assistant engineer at the contractor firm, Association of Shahjalal Business System, said, "It's nothing. Everything will be alright once the road rollers compact the asphalt after the rain."

However, construction experts said asphalt should not be laid on road amid rain. It weakens the asphalt and cracks appear on the roads within a few weeks.

Contacted, Abu Ehtesham Rashed, executive engineer of RHD in Brahmanbaria, said he heard about the incident and ordered the firm to stop working in rain.

Sources in the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) said the 4.5km road was being repaired as part of a Tk 79.55-crore project to build a 496-metre railway overpass in Mourail Rail Gate area. The project began in 2016 with a view to reducing traffic congestion in the town.

Association of Shahjalal Business System was given the job of fixing the road connected to the site of the under-construction overpass.

However, locals said the firm was repairing the important road hastily. It was laying asphalt on the road without fixing its numerous potholes.

They also alleged that low quality construction materials, including cement, were being used in the work.

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