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FALLOUT OF COAL CRISIS

Barapukuria power plant shut down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Barapukuria Power Plant was shut down last night for an indefinite period for a lack of fuel supply, a direct fallout of some 1.45 lakh tonnes of coal "going missing" from the yard of Barapukuria coalmine.

"We shut down the power plant for an indefinite period at 10:30pm," Abdul Hakim, chief engineer of the plant, told The Daily Star minutes after the plant went silent.

The plant had a capacity to generate 525 megawatt of power, but its recent highest production hovered around 380MW, according to Mahbubur Rahman, superintendent of the power plant at Parbatipur in Dinajpur.

The plant had three units, all of which got their fuel from the Barapukuria coalmine. One of them was taken offline early this month and another on Wednesday due to coal crisis.

The last unit, which added 250MW of power to the national grid yesterday, was turned off last night.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

A group of growers sort through their harvest of rambutan in Lumbini area of Rangamati district. Although not endemic to the area, the fruit has started gaining popularity there as a commercially-feasible product. Inset, Somoyon Chakma, whose relatives brought the first seeds of the fruit from Thailand, shows his latest harvest.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA



Rambutan starts rocking Rangamati

ANVIL CHAKMA, Rangamati

Rambutan, a tropical fruit closely related to the litchi, has started making its bright colourful appearance in Rangamati.

Known as one of the more popular fruits in Southeast Asia, the rambutan is widely cultivated in many other places including Africa, the Caribbean Islands, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, while Thailand remains its largest producer.

Though the fruit is still not commercially cultivated in Rangamati, some rambutan trees can be seen in courtyards around houses. The fruit has begun gaining popularity amongst the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Robo-nauts 'to be in space in 2019'

MAIL ONLINE

Russia is planning to blast two robot astronauts into space to work on the international space station.

Scientists have developed the advanced machines, named Fedor, to conduct rescues - even though they have recently been trained to use firearms.

According to RIA Novosti, the robots could be blasted into space as soon as August 2019.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BCL men assault quota reformists

Ignore PM's warning about excesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's warning, Chhatra League men attacked four quota reformists in Elephant Road and Suhrawardy Uddyan areas.

The attack came hours after Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the prime minister had warned BCL leaders and activists about overzealous actions against quota reforms activists.

While briefing journalists at his secretariat office yesterday morning, Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, said, "After the rally at the Suhrawardy Uddyan, the prime minister, in my presence, warned BCL leaders and activists that she doesn't want to hear any more complaints against Chhatra League of doing excesses."

During yesterday's incident in Elephant Road area, a group of BCL men, led by Amir Hamza, joint general secretary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall unit of BCL, and Saidur Rahman Uzzal, organising secretary of BCL Dhaka University unit, allegedly attacked three joint-conveners of the quota reform platform Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad.

Talking to The Daily Star, Niazi Sarker, one of the victims, said the BCL men attacked him and two others -- Ratul Sarker and Sohrab Hossain -- when they were returning home after a rally in an auto-rickshaw around 5:10pm.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK Cops to submit charge sheet today

BSS, Dhaka

The charge sheet in the case filed for the militant attack on Gulshan's Holy Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016, will be submitted to the court today.

"We are going to submit the charge sheet in the Holy Artisan attack case against eight militants tomorrow [today] as all necessary formalities to this end have already been completed," Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, told BSS yesterday.

The charge sheet will be submitted to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court under the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

UNSC meets today to discuss Myanmar

Rohingya issue to be prominent; Red Cross worried over situation in Rakhine

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Security Council has convened a closed-door meeting tonight to discuss Myanmar issue where the Rohingya crisis would come up prominently.

The UNSC meeting is taking place since its last meeting held in February and subse-

quent visit by the full UNSC, joint visit by the UN Secretary General and the World Bank President and a host of other heads of UN bodies in recent months.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New York yesterday told The Daily Star that Sweden, the current chair of UNSC, has

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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Bapex revives Begumganj Gas Field well

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (Bapex) expects to produce gas from the third well of Begumganj Gas Field in Noakhali, officials said.

"The well holds gas and its production is commercially viable," Tofayel Uddin Sikder, project director of the Begumganj Gas Field, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, declined to give the exact amount of gas that could be produced from the well.

Production from the field commenced in March 2015, but it ceased in July 2016, according to Petrobangla, which owns Bapex. Gas flow drop caused the suspension.

Tofayel led a team to repair, develop and revive the well.

The team opened a new zone, he said. The drilling steam test, a method to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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