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MISSING BARAPUKURIA COAL

# It's all system loss

Says Petrobangla expert body about 1.48 lakh tonnes unaccounted for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 1.48 lakh tonnes of coal disappeared from the stack yard of state-run Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) because of the system loss in production, handling and marketing since its inception more than a decade ago, an expert panel found.

The missing coal accounted for 1.42 percent of the total 1.0166 crore tonnes produced at the mine between 2005 and July 21, 2018.

There could be 1 percent to 3 percent system loss in production and marketing stages, according to the findings of the expert committee formed by Petrobangla after the news of the missing coal surfaced.

"There is clear evidence of the system loss -- from coal extraction to marketing," the committee report said.

The committee identified the reduction of moisture as the main factor behind the loss. As coal is stockpiled under open sky, it loses a significant amount of moisture and ash contents and hardness.

As the stack was way higher than it should have been, coal faced spontaneous burning from February to June, and its volatile materials/fixed carbon/moisture is lost, reducing the weight, read the report.

For the loss, the committee also blamed rainwash, blowing away of particles by wind or storm and spillage

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Four people, including two boys, ride a hand-pedal tricycle of a physically challenged man on Dhaka-Aricha highway near Savar as heavier and faster vehicles whoosh past. Such slow-moving vehicles are banned on highways. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Serial conman held in city

Cops say he defrauded people of Tk 50cr

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Police have arrested a man on charges of misappropriating Tk 50 crore from different people and business entities by deceiving them over the last two decades.

The arrestee is Moshirur Rahman, 48, and he faces at least 51 cases filed across the country, police said yesterday, adding that he used to introduce himself as a buyer and the owner of two companies -- Zahan group and Abrar Trade Corporations.

Moshirur used to sign purchase deals with different people or businesses. As per the agreements, he would pay 10 to 20 percent of the product price in cash. He would promise to pay the remaining amount in cheques, said Shahidur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

However, all those cheques would bounce and Moshirur would disappear soon after the products

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## Two killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

An alleged drug peddler and a suspected criminal were killed in "gunfights" with police in Mymensingh and Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The dead in Mymensingh is Rubel Mia, 31, of Jamirdia village in Bhaluka upazila.

Rubel's family claimed that he was not involved in drug trade. He had been missing since Thursday afternoon after some plainclothes men picked him up from the village, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

Shah Kamal Akanda, OC of the Detective Branch of Mymensingh police, said they conducted a raid in Bhaluka's Dakshin Hobirbari area around 2:20am yesterday after being tipped off that some drug peddlers were trading narcotics there.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, criminals opened fire on the DB team, triggering a "shootout". Police fired retaliatory shots.

At one stage, criminals left the place.

Finding bullet-hit Rubel lying on the spot, the DB men rushed him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where doctors declared him dead around 3:30am, the OC added.

Police claimed to have recovered 200 yaba pills and 100 gm heroin from the spot.

DB Assistant Sub-Inspector Sujon

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## Houthi drones hit Saudi oil heartland

Spark fires at Aramco oil facilities; oil output, exports disrupted; US condemns attack by Yemen rebels

REUTERS, Riyadh/Dubai/London

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group yesterday attacked two plants at the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, including the world's biggest petroleum processing facility, in a strike that three sources said had disrupted output and exports.

The pre-dawn drone attack on the Saudi Aramco facilities sparked several fires, although the kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, later said these were brought under control.

Three sources close to the matter said oil production and exports had been affected. One source said 5 million barrels per day of crude production had been impacted -- close to half the kingdom's output -- but did not elaborate.

State television said exports were continuing, however Aramco has yet to comment since the assault, which the Houthis said involved 10 drones. Authorities have not said whether oil production or exports were affected.

The attacks come as Aramco accelerates plans for an initial public offering of the state oil giant to as early as this year, and follow earlier cross-border attacks on Saudi oil installations and on oil tankers in Gulf waters. Saturday's attacks appeared to be the most brazen yet.

Saudi Arabia, leading a Sunni Muslim military coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 against the Houthis, has blamed regional rival Shi'ite Iran for previous attacks, which Tehran denies. Riyadh accuses Iran of arming the Houthis, a charge denied by the group and Tehran.

Authorities have not reported on casualties. A Reuters witness nearby said at least 15 ambulances were seen in the area and there was a heavy

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## One more dengue patient dies

Daily hospitalisation number drops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of dengue patients admitted to different hospitals across the country within a 24-hour span yesterday came down to 527, the lowest since July 24, when the number started rising rapidly.

Hospitals outside Dhaka saw more patients than the capital in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday as some 371 out of the 527 dengue patients were from outside Dhaka, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 80,567 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country this year. Of them, 44,823 were from Dhaka and the rest from outside, as per DGHS data.

Meanwhile, a dengue patient died yesterday

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## CIA's secret animal spies



AFP, Washington

In early 1974, Do Da was top in espionage class, on the way to becoming a high-flying CIA agent: he handled himself better in the rough, carried heavier loads, and could brush off attackers.

But on his toughest-yet spy school test, he disappeared -- done in by some of his own kind: ravens.

The bird was a central figure in a decade-long US Central Intelligence Agency program to train animals as agents, helping Washington fight the Cold War against the Soviet Union.

On Thursday, the CIA released dozens of files from its tests on cats, dogs, dolphins and on birds from pigeons to some of the smartest: ravens and crows.

It studied cats as possible loose-roaming

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## Ninth Wage Board gazette published

BSS, Dhaka

The government has published a gazette on the "Ninth Wage Board Award" for journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies.

The information ministry has published the gazette, dated September 12, on its website. The gazette came into effect on the date of publication.

The government on January 29 last year had formed a 13-member wage board, headed by retired

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### PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 15

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:09 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:12 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## BTRC verifying if 3G, 4G still available in refugee camps

STAR REPORT

A technical team of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has started an inspection to see if the recent restriction on 3G and 4G mobile data services was working in the Rohingya camp areas in Cox's Bazar.

The inspection, which is being assisted by technical experts from the mobile phone operators, began on Friday and will continue till tomorrow.

The BTRC team said jammers will be installed in the 32 Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas, and the local agents of the telecom operators will be asked to stop selling SIM cards to the refugees. They will also request local police to evict unauthorised agents from this area, said a team member requesting anonymity.

On September 9,

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Students form the words "Stop emissions now" on Baishakhi playground in the capital's Rayerbazar yesterday, demanding strong actions against climate change. A students' forum named Stop Emissions Now organised the event with fellows from over 12 schools.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## NRC publishes the status of all Assam applicants

AFP, The Hindu

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) authority yesterday published the individual status of all the 3.3 crore people of Indian state of Assam who had applied for inclusion in the updated citizens' registry when the exercise began five years ago.

The list -- which has the names of those who have been accepted as citizens, those who have been rejected and those whose appeals are pending -- was uploaded on the official NRC site less than a fortnight after 19.07 lakh people were excluded from the final NRC released on August 31.

One, however, has to key in the ARN, or application receipt number, to view his or her citizenship status or that of the members of his or her family. Each applicant was provided a unique ARN generated after application for the NRC updating exercise.

NRC State Coordinator for Assam Prateek Hajela had in a statement explained the difference between the final NRC lists released 14 days apart.

"Whereas the final NRC publication on August 31, 2019, consisted only of supplementary lists, queries were received about publication of results of all members of a family irrespective of their involvement in the Claims and Objections process. The results for the complete family will be available only for display online," he said a few days ago.

"Queries were also received from the public about the issue of certified copies of rejection from final NRC... The process of collection of the orders passed by the NRC officers is being carried out to enable early availability of

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