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BRAC BANK HEIST

Locker renters

claim Tk 2.2cr

valuables lost

BRAC Bank yesterday received

claims from 22 of the 60 affected

locker renters that they had kept

gold ornaments and other valu-

ables worth about Tk 2.20 crore in

the lockers, according to officials of

A number of affected locker

renters rejected the bank officials'

estimated value of the stolen valu-

ables claiming that the real value of

their stolen jewellery and other

anonymity said she had submitted

papers to the bank authorities

claiming gold ornaments and other

Meanwhile, the investigators

remain tight-lipped about the

progress of the investigation into

the heist at the Dhanmondi branch

ised gang was involved in the

Malaysia to ban

foreign workers

Malaysia will ban foreign workers

from serving customers at all its

airports in a bid to reduce migrant

labour in the country, according to

The move comes after calls by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

unions to halt the hiring of foreign

Former energy and power adviser

Tapan Chowdhury left for London

Square Group, took an available

flight at 9:00pm for Singapore en

route to London to meet his wife

His return schedule could not

Sources said Tapan, a director of

Tapan leaves

for London

UNB, Dhaka

last night.

and daughter.

at its airports

AFP, Kuala Lunmpur

a report yesterday.

"We are certain that an organ-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

of BRAC Bank Ltd in the capital.

valuables worth about Tk 84 lakh.

An affected renter wishing

valuables would be much higher.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the private bank.

TRANSCOM



Bangabandhu's homecoming day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrates the historic Homecoming Day o Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today.

On this day in 1972 Bangabandhu, the Founding Father of Bangladesh, returned to an independent country after being released from a Pakistani jail earlier. Pakistan army arrested him on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

REDRAWING CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY

EC plan to upset pollroadmap

Say AL, BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Awami League (AL) and BNP yesterday said the implementation of electoral roadmap might be hindered if the Election Commission (EC) redraws the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies.

"The whole electoral process will be affected badly and the SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Decomposed bodies of 6 Sidr victims recovered

UNB, Bagerhat

Decomposed bodies of six more Sidr victims were recovered from the Sundarbans and Sharankhola upazila yesterday, nearly two months after the disaster.

Local people found the bodies of five fishermen at Chhaprakhali in the Sundarbans and another body of a woman in a paddy field at Tafalbari village in Sharankhola. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Ashura on Jan 20

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ashura will be observed in the country on January 20 as the moon of Muharram, the first month of Hijri year 1429, was not sighted yesterday.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at Islamic Foundation conference room yesterday with committee's Vice-President and Religious Affairs Secretary Muhammad Ataur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting said the Hijri year 1429 will start on Friday (Jan 11) while Ashura will be observed on January 20, said an Islamic Foundation press release.



SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM,

Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd (BGFCL) is going to permanently abandon its Brahmanbaria Titas Gas Field's faulty well no. 3 and has already started the procedure.

trying to kill the well permanently. The entire process would cost at least \$7.87 million and Tk 70.56 lakh in two phases, sources said.

The BGFCL authorities yesterday hoisted a red flag and announced special notice asking everyone around not to be frightened as the process may create at least 20-to-25-foot high flames with roaring and deafening

Sources in the BGFCL said the mary tasks have been completed. well was adding 30 million cubic feet gas to the national grid regularly. But the authorities started the

termination process due to its faulty and abnormal functioning.

complete the work, they added. M/s Boots & Coots International, a US-based gas control company, has been tasked with the killing and abandonment work. Despite their

The experts concerned are efforts, the well remained since the emitting started. unchanged until yesterday. They shut down the well for 12 hours on Sunday on an experimental basis, but had to restart it urgently after one and a half hours.

They claimed the experiment was done the next day. A BGFCL officer said the experiment was done as a diagnostic step to work out what process should be adopted. He said the well is under their full control and all the pri-

Natural gas was emitting through countless big and small holes in Shampur, Anandapur and

Shopkeepers of Baitul Mukarram Market in the capital close their stores and take to the streets yesterday

primary, leading to ample political

helped or hurt her.

opining that the display either

demanding eviction of hawkers from the footpaths in front of the market.

Hillary wins New

Hampshire race

Loiska Beel near the well for the last three years. Informed by villagers, At least 20-25 days is required to BGFCL authorities launched an investigation and found that gas was emitting due to lack of proper cementation in the well.

All tube-wells of Shampur and Anandapur villages are out of order

Speaking anonymously, a BGFCL high official said the faulty well was very harmful for Titas Gs Field. That is why they started the killing process.

Contacted, Md Abdul Hye, deputy commissioner (DC) of Brahmanbaria, said he has visited the spot and has reports from he BGFCL that gas emitting will stop when the ongoing work is done.

The DC has ordered the upazila nirbahi officer (Sadar) to make a survey on the villagers of nearby villages as a precautionary measure in case of emergency.

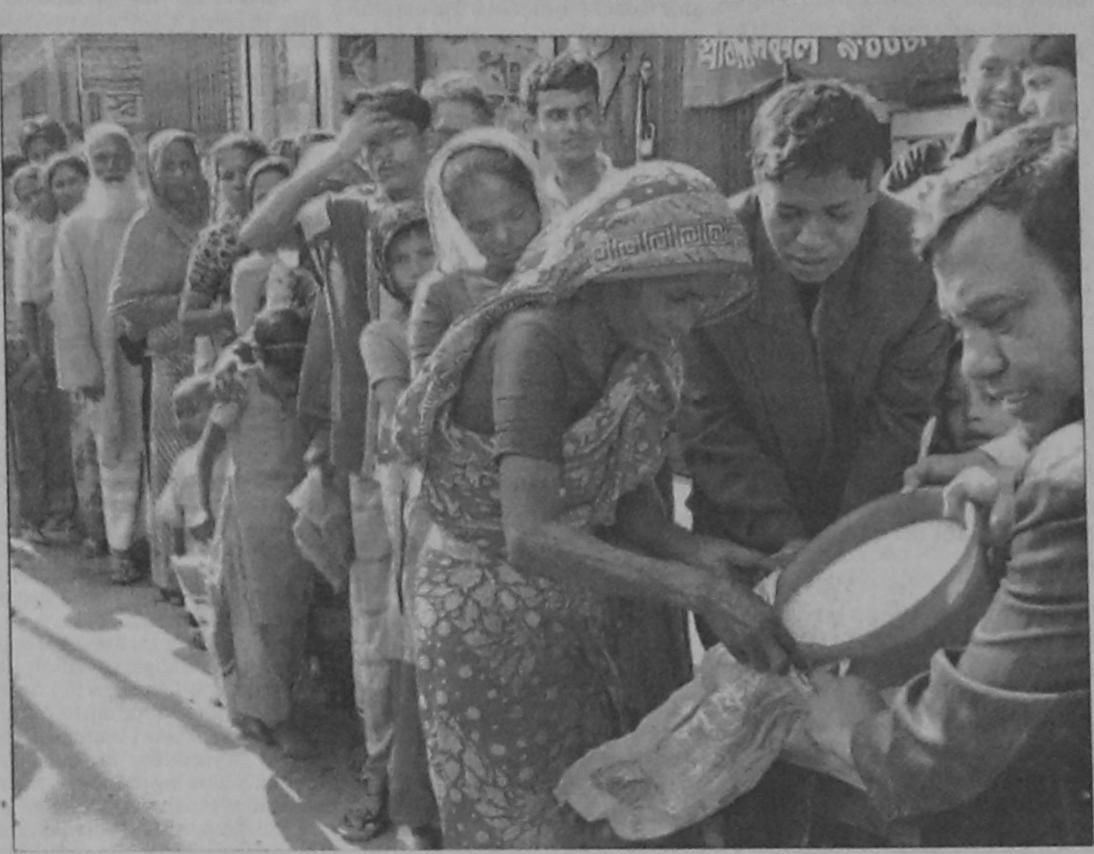


PHOTO: STAR

Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice began across the country yesterday as part of the government effort to rein in the soaring prices. The photo of an OMS outlet was taken at Motijheel in the capital.

Ex-director of NBR sued for ill-gotten wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former National Board of Revenue (NBR) director Jahurul Haque and his wife were sued yesterday for amassing wealth beyond their known sources of income and concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Jahurul and his wife Afia Haque for amassing Tk 1.53 crore beyond known sources of income and concealing information about wealth worth Tk 1.25 crore in the statement. Afia submitted the wealth state-

absconding husband after the High Court ordered the ACC to accept it. Earlier, the ACC had asked Jahurul to submit the wealth state-

ment on March 3 on behalf of her

ment in person. But he sent his nephewTauhidul Islam to submit it SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

DUVIOLENCE Students' judicial statements were not influenced

Ex-magistrate tells court COURT CORRESPONDENT

A former magistrate in his statement to a Dhaka court yesterday said the two Dhaka University (DU) students who had given judicial statements to him were not influenced by anyone.

In their statements, the two students accused several teachers and students of DU for violating the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) on the DU campus and their statements are not his personal statement, said Shahed Kabir, a former magistrate of Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, while giving his statement to the court. SEE PAGE 5 COL 8 | ceremony, with dozens of dignitar-

Raise use of coal to cut gas consumption

Draft Coal Policy review body suggests

Bush starts ME tour,

sees new chance

BSS, Dhaka

The draft coal policy review committee in its final report has recommended that use of natural gas in different sectors, including power, should be gradually lessened side by side with increasing the use of coal and other substitute fuel sources to ensure energy security in the country.

The report was yesterday handed over to secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Mohsin with a provision for forming a public sector organisation named "Coal Bangla" to develop the coal sector, an official handout said.

The secretary received the report from committee chairman Prof Abdul Matin Patwary. The 10member review committee formed tonnes including 1,53 million tones on June 21 last finalised the report

for peace

AFP, Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv

US President George W Bush said

he saw a new chance for Middle

East peace as he arrived in Israel

yesterday at the start of a landmark

regional tour marked by escalating

for his first presidential visit to

Israel, seeking a foreign policy

triumph in his last year in office by

Israel rolled out a full red carpet

forging a Middle East peace deal.

Amid tight security, Bush flew in

tensions with Iran.

Holds talks with Peres

after reviewing the overall draft coal policy in as many as 19 sittings, The committee felt that ensur-

ing energy security through the speedy development of the coal policy is its main objective, the handout said. Prof Nazrul Islam, Maj Gen

Mohammad Ismail Faruq Chowdhury, Professor Nurul Islam, Journalist Ataus Samad, Prof Mostafizur Rahman, Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Maqbul-e-Elahi and Mohammad Ehsanullah were present during the handing over of the report. Officials of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources were also present.

It was mention in the coal policy that the total explored coal reserve in the country is 3,300 million SEE PAGE'S COL 5

ies welcoming the leader of its

closest ally on the tarmac at Ben

Gurion airport near Tel Aviv when

peace here in the Holy Land and for

freedom across the region,

declared Bush, who has pledged to

advance peace talks with a view to

creating a Palestinian state before

amid great fanfare at a US confer-

ence six weeks ago but have since

Negotiations were relaunched

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

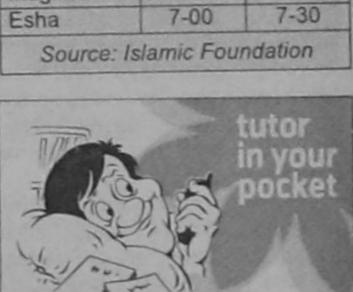
his term ends in January 2009.

"We see a new opportunity for

Air Force One touched down.

beknown. Tapan resigned from his post on

Prayer Timing January 10		
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30





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AFP, Manchester, New Hampshire

Hillary Clinton yesterday basked in

the glow of her primary win in New

Hampshire, where she defied polls

and narrowly beat rival Barack

Obama in the state's key

Democratic presidential nominat-

Senator John McCain mean-

while staged his own comeback on

the Republican side, triumphing in

ing been widely written off months

across New Hampshire," said

Hillary, who grew tearful in a rare

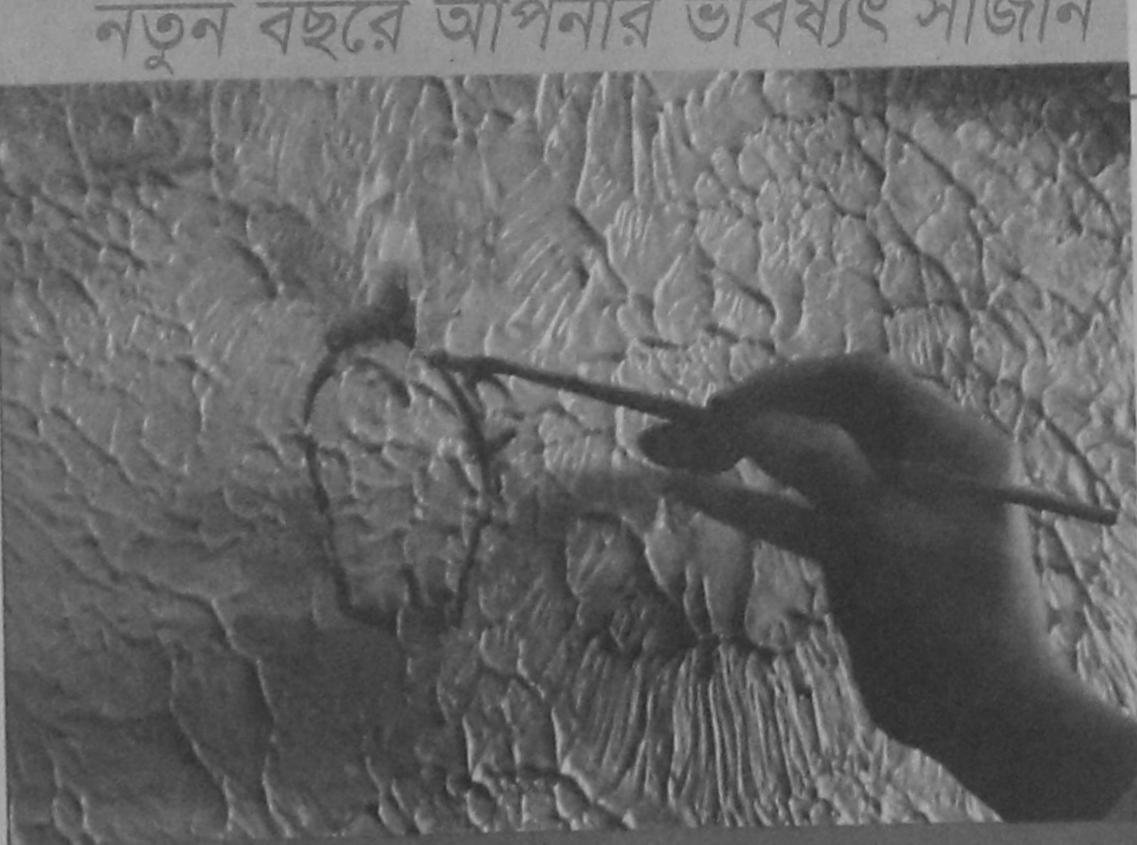
show of emotion on the eve of the

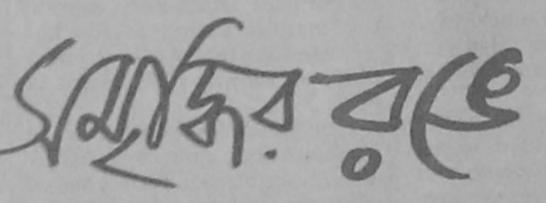
"I campaigned really, really hard

the crucial early vote despite hav-

ago as his campaign flagged.

ing contest.





SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

"I don't pay a lot of attention

when people say I'm up or when

people say I'm down," Hillary told

CNN. "I really believed that I had a

good chance to win. Nobody else

ing supporters: "Over the last week,

Ilistened to you, and in the process,

that anointed Obama a double-

digit favorite and suffering a sting-

ing third-place defeat in the Iowa

caucus last week, Hillary won the

state primary that saved her hus-

band's own presidential campaign

Hillary triumphantly told cheer-

Despite public opinion polls

believed it, but all day, I did."

I found my own voice."

in 1992.

- 🗸 ১৯৫৯ সালে বাঙালী উদ্যোগে প্রতিষ্ঠিত এদেশের প্রথম ব্যাংক
- 🗸 বাংলার ঐতিহ্যে লালিত ব্যক্তিখাতের সর্বাধিক সম্প্রসারিত ব্যাংক
- সকল শাখাই কম্পিউটারাইজড
- আমাদের নতুন নতুন সেবার মধ্যে যোগ হলো লীজ ফাইন্যানিং, সিকিউরিটিজ ট্রেডিং ও শিক্ষা ঝণ প্রকল্প

বিস্তারিত জানতে দেশব্যাপী আমাদের ৩৬১টি শাখার যে কোনটিতে যোগাযোগ করতে সবিনয় অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে আমাদের মেয়াদী আমানতের মুনাফার হার সমৃদ্ধ করুন আপনার ভবিষ্যৎ ...

নিম্নের মেয়াদী আমানত (FDR) এর উপর মুনাফার হার বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে

- ত মাস বা তদুর্দ্ধ কিন্তু ৬ মাসের কম
- ৬ মাস বা তদুর্দ্ধ কিন্তু ১২ মাসের কম
- ১২ মাস বা তদুর্দ্ধ কিন্তু ২৪ মাসের কম
- ২৪ মাস বা তদুর্দ্ধ

এছাড়াও মাসিক মুনাফা প্রদান ভিত্তিক ৫ বৎসর মেয়াদী একটি নতুন আমানত স্কীম চালু হয়েছে

