

## Int'l court rejects Chevron claim

Petrobangla could save around \$240m for the ruling

**STAR REPORT**  
An international arbitration court yesterday turned down US oil giant Chevron's age-old claim of around \$240 million from Petrobangla.

Chevron had filed the case with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in March, 2006 saying Petrobangla has been illogically deducting over the years from Chevron's earnings from gas sales.

Even though Petrobangla claims the amount to be \$70 million, Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates, which repre-

sented Bangladesh at the court, said the total would end up to be around \$240 million.

After avoiding the arbitration for three years, Petrobangla last year went to the ICSID, a wing of World Bank, and submitted that the deduction was fair and legal.

The ICSID that heard the case between 2007 and 2009 in The Hague, Washington and London yesterday announced its verdict of unanimous rejection of Chevron's claim.

Petrobangla has been deducting four percent wheeling charge from its payments to Chevron for the purchase of gas

from Jalalabad gas field, which is operated by the American company under a Production Sharing Contract (PSC). This charge is imposed because Chevron uses Petrobangla's pipeline to transmit gas from Jalalabad field into the state-owned national gas network.

"We hope Chevron would now accept this verdict," said Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur yesterday expressing happiness. He noted that similar instances in the past where a verdict went against Petrobangla, Bangladesh did not resort to the higher court. He said, "We

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## BNP's Paltan rally today

Khaleda to announce anti-govt agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will unveil a set of anti-government programmes at a rally in the capital's Paltan Maidan today.

This will be her party's first major rally in the city since it had a drubbing in the 2008 general election.

Hunger strike, long march and human chains are likely to be among the programmes to be announced from the rally, which starts at 2:00pm.

For the last few days, the main opposition party has been working to bring in a

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## Khaleda 'misguided'

BNP group in Ctg also claims chosen mayor candidate Alam an ex-AL man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Intra-party feuds in Chittagong BNP have taken a turn for the worse following the party's decision to back M Manzurul Alam as mayoral candidate in June 17 city corporation polls.

A faction led by city BNP General Secretary Shahadat Hossain and Senior Vice-president Dastagir Chowdhury yesterday resented the high command's decision.

At a press conference in the morning, Shahadat alleged that city BNP President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, also a standing committee member, has misled Chairperson Khaleda Zia into picking Alam as mayoral contender.

Terming Alam a "non-BNP man" and a former supporter of Awami League, he said someone from the party would have sealed

victory over the ruling party-backed candidate. "The grassroots leaders and workers are very upset at the decision."

"They will however support Alam since it's a decision of the party," Shahadat added.

Later in the evening, those loyal to Shahadat-Dastagir held a rally in front of city BNP office. They demanded the BNP high-ups choose a party man as mayoral candidate.

They also chanted slogans against Amir Khasru for lobbying in favour of Alam.

Khaleda picked Alam as BNP-backed mayoral candidate at a meeting with Chittagong BNP stalwarts including Amir Khasru and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury on Monday night.

Chittagong Unnayan Andolon, a platform of pro-BNP professionals, at a press conference at

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## BIWTA chief faces contempt charge over river drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) chairman and three others over their role in demolishing structures in four rivers around the capital.

BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Mian and his Senior Deputy Director (Port and Traffic) in Narayanganj Saiful Islam, President of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners Association MA Rouf Chowdhury and General

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A few youths taunt a young girl on a footbridge at the capital's Farmgate yesterday afternoon. A number of stalking incidents have been reported this year, some of them led to assaults, suicides and even murders.

PHOTO: RASHIED SHUMON

## Cyclone Laila gathers pace over Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bay of Bengal remains rough and all fishing trawlers were advised to return to the shore as the depression formed in the southwest at about 1,300 km off the coast intensified into a cyclonic storm yesterday.

Following a spell of heat waves across the country, the cyclone named "Laila" is possibly bringing the monsoon with it, a weather expert said.

"However, it still remains at a safe distance and might take two more days to approach

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## Frigate case against Hasina quashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday in a verdict quashed all proceedings against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the frigate purchase corruption case filed during the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

An HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee issued the verdict upon a petition by Hasina for quashing the proceedings against her in the case.

The court observed that

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## Creeps reign supreme

Girl students find no respite as stalkers get arrested, released upon guardians' bond

SHARIFUL ISLAM

It was like their job, gathering in front of Tongi Pilot High School gate during start of the school and when it breaks up. They make obscene gestures, explicit comments and whistle at the schoolgirls entering and leaving the school.

On April 11 just like other days, they, a group of six youths, appeared at the school gate and started their tricks. They did not know that April 11 was not a regular day.

Around 1:00pm minutes after the school had closed for the day students started pouring out. The six stalkers aged between 20 and 26 began to do what they always do.

Rab personnel in plainclothes, whom the six stalkers took

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**STALKING**  
14 girls kill themselves in 4 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 14 girls and the father of a stalking victim committed suicide during the last four and half months, data shows.

And three men were killed and four others were tortured for protesting at stalking by local youths this year.

Sayed Ahmed, senior coordinator, Media and International Advocacy of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), presented these facts during a discussion at Shilpakala

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## Dhaka, Seoul agree to boost cooperation

4 deals signed; Hasina reaches KL

UNB, Seoul

Bangladesh and South Korea yesterday agreed to intensify cooperation in trade, investment, transfer of technology, energy and infrastructure development for mutual benefit.

This was announced in a joint communiqué issued at the end of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's three-day visit to Seoul from May 16-18.

During the visit, Bangladesh and South Korea signed four deals including two on Economic Development Fund Loan (EDFL) and Energy Cooperation between the two countries.

The communiqué says Korea expressed its commitment to continue to offer assistance in

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MORE STORIES, PHOTOS ON PAGE 2, 5, IN STAR BUSINESS

## Fire guts 15 shops at Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 shops were gutted in a fire at Jhut Patti in the city's Mirpur in the early hours today.

Ten fire-fighting units from across the capital were working to douse the flames, fire brigade officials told The Daily Star at 2:05am.

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