



TEESTA SHARING

A look into the water flow in the river

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MOBILE BANKING

Bangladesh Bank forms guidelines for the service

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DEATH OF A VISIONARY

Kenya's Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai dies in Nairobi while undergoing cancer treatment

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New gas 'found'

Local explorer sees 80pc possibility of finding huge reserve in old Sylhet field

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A survey of national gas field of Rashidpur has raised high hopes of finding an additional one trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas.

This is a major development in a national gas field, a source of gas cheaper than that produced by international oil companies. Once tapped, this reserve would significantly help reduce the country's perennial gas crisis, officials say.

According to Petrobangla sources, Bangladesh has 12-15tcf reserve of gas.

At present, the country has a gas supply of about 2,000mmcf per day against the demand for 2,500mmcf, leading to a severe crisis in gas-fired power generation and gas-based industrial production. The shortfall has also affected domestic consumers.

Discovered in 1960, Rashidpur field went into commercial operation two years later and so far supplied 460 billion cubic feet (bcf) of gas to the national grid, the officials add.

The new 967bcf deposit was detected in the field's unexplored eastern part

which is separated by a geological fault.

The finding came through the first-ever three dimensional seismic survey conducted at Rashidpur by Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (Bapex).

One of the oldest gas fields in the country, it already had a proven gas reserve of 2tcf in its western part.

"There is an 80 per cent possibility that we will find another 967.2bcf gas from a part of the eastern flank of the field," announcing the survey result, Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur said at a press briefing yesterday.

During the briefing at Petrocentre, he said the team has conducted the survey with modern technology on the western fault of Rashidpur in Sylhet.

There is also a low possibility of finding another 2.416tcf gas from another part of the eastern flank, said Mortuza Ahmad Faruque, managing director of Bapex.

"However, we have to conduct more drillings to find the gas," he said. "But the possibility is higher and the signs are

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A kid falls asleep on the tanker of the motorbike while two other riders are without helmet. Such careless drive puts them at risk of a severe accident. The photo was taken on Bijay Sarani in the capital Sunday night.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PM under fire for 'no talks' remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has come under fire from politicians for ruling out any talks with the opposition on national issues.

Hasina made the remarks at a "Meet the Press" programme at Bangladesh's permanent mission in the UN headquarters on Saturday.

Asked if she will discuss the national issues with the main opposition BNP, the prime minister said it is useless to sit with "corrupt people."

She alleged that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is interested only in

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Economy in tangles

People start to feel the pinch as govt rides on a high fuel import to feed fuel-guzzling power plants

INAM AHMED

The letter shocked Rahman. A few lines typed in an official language across a white page with the bank's insignia at the top. It says your monthly mortgage payment has been raised by Tk 3,000 in response to the central bank's tighter monetary policy to fight inflation.

Rahman had already cut back on his transport cost by cycling to most places including office. He had held back purchase of a pair of shoes and a decent jacket for the last two months. Now what else he has to cut back on? He sighed. A bad time is coming, he concludes.

The portent that something is going wrong was in the air for the last six months or so. Suddenly both food and non-food items were becoming pricier. Dollar was becoming expensive. Roads were falling apart. And the government was on a bor-

rowing spree.

And now, it seems, the danger has really come true and the government management of the economy seems to be in a shambles, not for one count but for many.

The government's budget deficit is proving too underestimated mainly on account of high fuel import. When the Awami League came to power, it rightly set supply of power as a top priority. But the path it chose proved perilous after two and a half years. It went for quick power fixing, not that it had any choice, by allowing quick rental power plants that run on diesel and furnace oil. But that action opened a fissure in the economy -- as when these plants would start rolling, the need for fuel import would go up drastically. When the fuel sales price is lower than the import price, that would leave deep budget deficit.

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BNP RALLY TODAY

Khaleda to announce agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has made all-out preparations for today's rally in the capital where the party chairperson will declare agitation programme to compel the government to restore the caretaker government system.

The rally will be held in front of BNP's central office at the city's Naya Paltan at 2:00pm. It will be the biggest political rally in recent times, said Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, chief of BNP's Dhaka city unit.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia had declared that her

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Narayanganj braces for violence

Tension in the air as first-ever city polls draw nearer; 2 leading candidates demand army deployment, admin reshuffle

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and RAKIB AHAMMED, from Narayanganj



Tension runs high in the town ahead of the maiden polls to Narayanganj City Corporation as many voters and intending candidates apprehend violence during electioneering.

Some identified top criminals have recently surfaced to work for a candidate, alleged a number of voters and candidates. They, however, did not mention any name.

Three mayoral hopefuls --

Narayanganj district president of BNP Taimur Alam Khondaker, vice-president of town Awami League Selina Hayat Ivy, former

general secretary of district AL Shamim Osman -- have started campaigning for the polls scheduled for October 30.

Taimur and Ivy have been demanding army deployment and a reshuffle in the civil administration to ensure free and credible election.

Talking to The Daily Star, they said the

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Road mayhem goes on

City communications disrupted for hours, 20 vehicles vandalised as Jagannath University students press for 4 demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University students went on a rampage damaging cars and halting traffic for the second consecutive day yesterday to press home their demands including continued government funding for the university.

Agitating students vandalised at least 20 vehicles and blocked Nababpur Road, Johnson Road and

English Road at Roy Saheb Bazar in Old Dhaka, witnesses said.

Around 2,000 students under the banner of "General Students" took to the streets around 9:00am, disrupting traffic movement on Gulistan-Sadarghat and Nayabazar-Narinda roads for nearly four hours, they added.

Police charged batons to disperse the demonstrators

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PHOTO: STAR

As Jagannath University students go berserk at Roy Saheb Bazar in Old Dhaka yesterday morning, a car while speeding away from the scene crashes into a rickshaw, hurting the passengers.



The agitating students smash vehicles during their demonstration for continued government funding for the university, among other demands.