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Activists of the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami, left, set fire to tyres at Gabtoli in the capital during the eight-hour roadblock yesterday. On the right, a pro-government activist brandishes a firearm while chasing pickets. Inset, injured Nazim Uddin Alam, a former BNP MP.



PHOTO: STAR

Exploration; no export

Petrobangla invites foreign companies to explore 12 blocks in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Petrobangla, state-run oil, gas and mineral resources corporation, yesterday invited international companies to bid for oil and gas exploration in 12 blocks in the Bay of Bengal with no scope for export.

Under the new model of production sharing contract (PSC) "Bangladesh offshore bidding round 2012", the oil companies, however, are allowed to sell oil, gas and condensate to the government at higher prices.

The country will pay them \$5 per million cubic feet of gas. Last year Bangladesh made a deal with US oil giant ConocoPhillips, offering \$4.5 per mcf gas. Before that it used to pay \$2.90 per mcf to oil companies.

Nine of the 12 sea blocks allocated for the latest bidding are in shallow waters and the three others are deep-sea blocks, Petrobangla Director Muhammad Imaduddin told reporters at his office in the capital.

"We did not keep the word

'export' in the document inviting tenders. So there should not be any confusion over it."

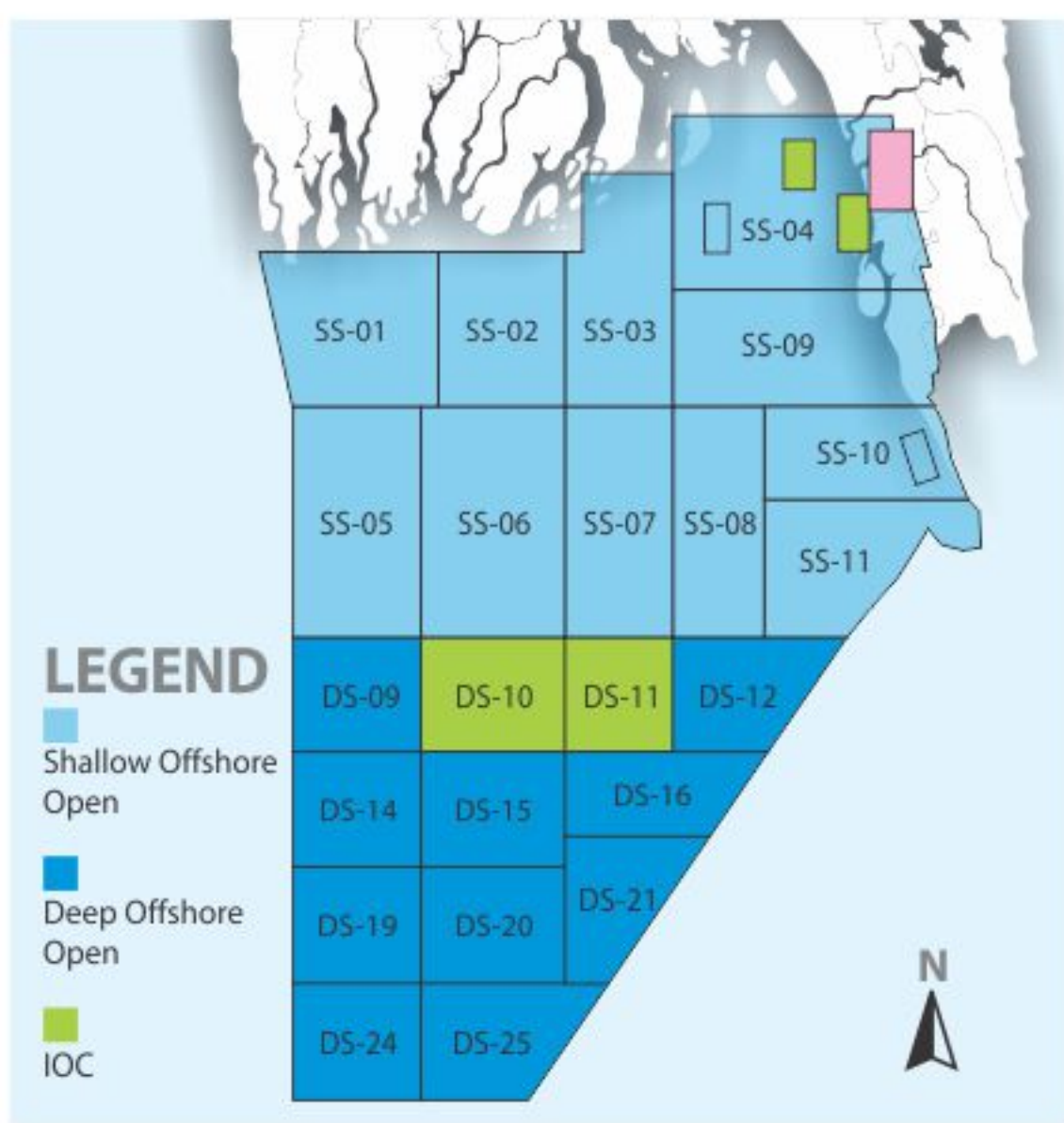
Imaduddin is hopeful that major international companies would take part in this bidding.

The interested companies will have to submit their tender documents between December 17, 2012 and March 18, 2013, he said.

The shallow blocks -- SS-02, SS-03, SS-04, SS-06, SS-07, SS-08, SS-09, SS-10 and SS-11 -- are located at a maximum depth of 200 metres and cover about 51,589 square kilometres in total.

The block SS-04 has an offshore gas structure discovered earlier in Kutubdia included and the block SS-10 has another off-shore gas structure in Teknaf added. The companies which will be awarded these two blocks will have to explore these offshore fields.

The deep-sea blocks -- DS-12, DS-16 and DS-21 -- cover an area of 10,041 square kilometres at a depth between 200 and 2,000 metres.



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Mashiur at Planning Commission

Claims he went there for 'party work'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime minister's economic affairs adviser Mashiur Rahman, who is on leave in connection with alleged corruption in Padma Bridge project, yesterday held a meeting with some members of the Planning Commission.

The meeting was held in the office room of Shamsul Alam, member (general economic division) of the commission. Besides Shamsul, two other members were present, a commission official said.

Mashiur later told waiting reporters, "I came here on a party work".

Asked why he came to the Planning Commission for party work, he said he does not do any

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Parties must talk to hold credible polls

UN official for homegrown formula acceptable to all

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations encourages a constructive dialogue among the political parties to find out a formula acceptable to all for holding an inclusive, free and fair next general election in the country.

"The formula should have to be home-grown, driven by the Bangladeshis and acceptable to all," UN Assistant Secretary General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco said while addressing a press conference at Lake Shore Hotel yesterday evening.

Taranco is leading a three-member UN delegation to Dhaka since Thursday.

The UN official said he was very encouraged that everybody was committed to hold the next general election in a free and fair manner, ensuring full participation of all major political parties.



Fernandez-Taranco

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Ctg-12 JS by-polls on Jan 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-elections to Chittagong-12 parliamentary constituency will be held on January 17, announced the Election Commission yesterday.

According to the polls schedule, the last date for submitting application is December 20 while the deadline for withdrawing candidature is December 31. The applications will be scrutinised on December 23.

The Chittagong-12 constituency fell vacant following the death of the ruling Awami League

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PRAYER TIMING		December 10
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

DOHA CLIMATE TALKS END

Deal clears way for damage aid to poor

EU, Australia, Norway also sign up to new carbon-cutting targets

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Poor countries have won historic recognition of the plight they face from the ravages of climate change, wringing a pledge from rich nations that they will receive funds to repair the "loss and damage" incurred.

This is the first time developing coun-

tries have received such assurances, and the first time the phrase "loss and damage" has been enshrined in an international legal document.

Developing countries had been fighting hard for the concession at the fortnight-long UN climate change talks among 195 nations in Qatar, which

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Azad killed 2 in Faridpur

Witness testifies at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eyewitness yesterday testified before the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad had killed two persons at Mayendia Market in Faridpur during the Liberation War.

Abdul Mannan, sixteenth prosecution witness in the case against Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, said seven to eight people were killed at Hindu majority Hasemdia village the same day.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Finance Minister AMA Muhith that the World Bank's latest statement is totally unjust?

Yes (54%)

No (45%)

No Comments (1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 775

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is working independently?

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