

## Well drilling for Pabna gas exploration starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (Bapex) started digging an exploration well in Santhia upazila of Pabna yesterday, five years after it took up a project to find if the natural resource is available there.

The drilling started on an area of 8.8 acres in Mobarakpur site, 40km east of the district town. A reserve of 170 billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas is expected there.

"This is a challenge to drill in a new geographical condition, but Bapex hopes that it would succeed," said Prof Hossain Monsur, chairman of Petrobangla, who inaugurated the drilling, being conducted by the rig called Bijoy 12. The well would be 4.5km deep.

Md Khairul Islam, administrative officer of Mobarakpur site, told the Daily Star that the drilling

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Drivers and workers of trucks stranded at Paturia Truck Terminal for a few days protest yesterday demanding that the BIWTC authorities let trucks cross the river Padma along with passenger buses. Strong currents hampered ferry services between Paturia and Daulatdia ghats leading to severe traffic jams on the two sides of the river. The truck workers are demonstrating as the authorities have stopped allowing trucks to cross the river by giving priority to buses.

PHOTO: STAR

## Paturia-Daulatdia People suffer for disruption of ferry services

Vehicles stranded creating long tailbacks

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Vehicles were stranded at Paturia and Daulatdia ferry ghats creating long tailbacks on the two sides of the river Padma yesterday as ferry service was hampered due to strong currents.

Hundreds of passengers were stranded for hours without food, and bathroom facilities.

Shyama Afroz Joly said her family suffered a lot as the bus they were in reached Paturia ghat around 1:00am yesterday and it was stuck there till noon.

She urged the government to build a bridge there to ease sufferings of people belonging to 21 south and south-western districts of the country.

Many other passengers echoed her.

Bidyut Kumer Saha, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), Paturia said the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# BNP gearing up for final push

To 'reorganise' grassroots for movement after Eid-ul-Azha

UNB, Dhaka

Already in a tight corner because of its frustrating failure in the pre-election movement, the BNP is now trying to rejuvenate its grassroots through district tours by senior leaders and prepare the party for a decisive movement, already in mid-October or early November.

Taking lessons from its futile campaign before the January 5 vote, the party this time wants to go for a final movement after reorganising all units and associate bodies, several leaders involved in the initiative told the news agency.

Thy said that during their tours, they would try to revitalise the party men, resolve infightings and misunderstandings, sort out inactive leaders, put emphasis on reconstituting party's district units through councils, and give them necessary directions for a successful movement.

"We've made several teams headed by senior leaders for the district tours that started on August 21. These will continue until August 31. Many teams have already started their work and some are preparing to follow suit," said BNP joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 12kg of gold seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence officials and Dhaka railway police detained two persons and seized 66 gold bars, weighing around 12kg, worth around Tk 6 crore, in the capital yesterday.

Alamin, who came from Malaysia by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, was detained at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport while crossing the green channel 26 gold bars worth about Tk 3.65 crore was recovered from his luggage, said Moinul Khan, director general of the intelligence wing.

Moinul suspected that Alamin is involved with human trafficking gangs as 26 passports of different persons with Malaysian visas were also recovered from him.

Many of the passport owners are staying in Malaysia at present. He brought the passports to traffic more people by changing the photographs on the passports, Moinul added. Meanwhile, the railway police detained Shaheen, 35, and sized 40 gold bars, weighing around 5kg, from him at Kamalapur Railway Station in the morning, said Abdul Majid, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police.

Police raided Turna Nishita Express that arrived from Chittagong following a tip-off and detained Shaheen.

Market value of the gold bars is estimated at around Tk 2.4 crore, said police.

## NAZRUL'S DEATH

### Election to NCC ward-2 for councillor post today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Election will be held today for the post of councillor of ward no-2 of Narayangaj City Corporation, which felt vacant after its councillor Nazrul Islam was killed along with six others in April this year.

Seven people, including Nazrul Islam, who was also a panel mayor of NCC, and lawyer Chandan Sarkar, were abducted in Narayanganj on April 27.

Three days later, six bodies were found floating in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## LINKING KHALEDA, TARIQUE TO AUG 21 ATTACK

### PM's remarks to influence trial

Says SCBA chief Khandker Mahub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's allegations that the BNP chief and her elder son were involved in the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004 will influence the ongoing trial, President of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Khandker Mahub Hossain said yesterday.

"It's a sub judice matter," he told a discussion, "The proposed 16th amendment bill and basic rights," at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, organised by Bangladesh Republican Forum.

Mahub, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said, "The prime minister has levelled such allegations with an aim to hide the real accused."

Sheikh Hasina remarked on Thursday, "While Zia

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## NARAYANGANJ FIRE

### Woman, her son die at DMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two members of a family who were injured in Narayanganj fire died yesterday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after fighting for lives for four days.

The dead were Selina Begum, 40, and her son Anik, 12. On early Monday, five people, including three of Selina's family, suffered serious burn injuries in a fire caused by an explosion at a pharmacy owned by one Anwar Hossain at Purba Shehachar Lalkha bazaar in Fatullah of Narayanganj Sadar upazila.

Four of them were taken to the burn unit of DMCH immediately.

Selina's cousin Mujibur Rahman said the condition of his niece Popy, who is admitted to the burn unit, is also critical.

Following the explosion, a wall of the pharmacy collapsed and the nearby house of Selina caught fire. Locals doused the flames.

Police suspect the explosion was caused by a leakage of gas.



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki, third from right, with President of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rokia Afzal Rahman, fourth from right, and other members of a delegation of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka on Thursday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## CROSS BORDER TRADE Meher Afroz assures women entrepreneurs of all-out help

CITY DESK

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki has assured women entrepreneurs of all possible assistance to promote cross border trade and entrepreneurship.

The assurance came when a delegation of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, led by Rokia Afzal Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met her on Thursday, says a press release.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## 'TORTURE FOR DOWRY' Newly wed woman commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dowry harassment allegedly forced a newly wed woman to commit suicide in Narinda of the capital's Gendaria yesterday.

Mamata Rani Paul Tumpa, 20, got married with Rajon Das just four months ago.

Tumpa hanged herself from the ceiling fan in their room at midnight following an altercation with Rajon over having dinner, said Rajon who was asleep in the room at that time. According to Rajon, he informed police of the matter and they together rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead. Morgue sources confirmed it was a suicide but the body bore several injury marks which indicate that Tumpa used to be tortured often. Nitai Chandra Paul, her father, said, "Tumpa called me from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Boy tortured with electric shocks 'by landlord'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A boy was tortured with electric shocks by the family of his landlord in Feni town Wednesday night over a trivial matter, said police.

Rajibul Hasan Chowdhury (Rakib), son of Amir Hossain, is a class VII student.

Some indecent remarks about their landlord Obaidul Haque's wife written by someone on the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Blue Bird School

FROM PAGE 3 as special guest.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor at The Daily Star, and Syed Mohidul Hossain Moin, manager of Robi, Sylhet, also addressed the concluding function.

The English language competition included questions on general grammar, sentence structure, word completion, and a listening test.

Syed Mohidul Hossain said it was due to sincere efforts of all that such an event was possible.

The future generation faces a competitive world where there is no alternative to learning English well, said the SUST vice chancellor, Prof Bhuiyan.

Mannan Khan of Sylhet board said a good number of SSC and HSC examinees suffer for their weakness in English and in mathematics.

"We need programmes like this to reach rural institutions to raise the standard of English of students and teachers there," he added.

Salehuddin Ahmed said English is no longer a language rather it is a technology in today's world.

## Body of another

FROM PAGE 3

Molla, 24, a hawker of Sylhet city, informed, Abul Khair, OC of Nalcity Police Station, adding that half of the body was decomposed. Locals first saw the body floating at Dokkhin Magkar in the morning. Police found a mobile phone in his pocket and using that SIM card they called at a saved number which connected them to his father Abdus Salam Molla of Gopalganj.

"I was looking for my son either alive or dead," said Salam. Shahid Molla, uncle of Mintu, after receiving the body, said at least the body will be their consolation.



With chemical-laced fruits and adulterated food items flooding markets across the country, Nirapad Khadya Andolon demands safe food, from a human chain in front of Wasa building at the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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